

Thatcher sees possibility of meeting Botha

Mrs Thatcher, before she had her regular audience with the Queen last night, left open the possibility of personal talks with President Botha...

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister, refusing all attempts to draw her into comment about her relations with the Queen, opened up the possibility yesterday of personal talks with President Botha about the South Africa crisis.

by the Government to the imposition of sanctions. When Mrs Thatcher told him he was making an absurd demand Mr Kinnoch accused her of "spoiling the games, rupturing the Commonwealth and sabotaging the mission of the Foreign Secretary".

Meanwhile, The Sunday Times yesterday threatened further disclosures to support the authenticity of its report last Sunday. A denial of the report was issued on Saturday night by the Queen's press secretary, Mr Michael Shea.

Cowley hearing 2 Zimbabwe pullout 7 Drugs ban 40

to raise Mrs Thatcher's relations with the Queen, but for him and others the Prime Minister proffered the standard reply that she intended to follow precedent and not answer questions directly or indirectly about the Monarch. As usual, there was no official word last night about what was said between Mrs Thatcher and the Queen at their meeting, although ministers were speculating that both would have been voicing regret about the published allegations of a rift between them.

Highly placed government sources said that if someone at Buckingham Palace had said the words reported in The Sunday Times they would not have been said with the authority of the Queen. If the Queen's political views were to be made known it would be damaging above all to the monarchy, it was said.

Portfolio Gold

There was no winner in The Times Portfolio Gold competition yesterday so today's prize is doubled to £8,000.

Faster trains for 1990s

Faster trains between main towns and cities are being planned for the 1990s, Sir Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, disclosed as he reported a £1.2 million profit for last year.

Envoys' safety

The Government was accused of neglecting the safety of British diplomats and their families serving abroad, by an all-party Foreign Affairs Committee.

Tokyo shuffle

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese leader, easily retained his post as Prime Minister and formed a new Cabinet.

Smoke hoods

The Civil Aviation Authority is considering the use of smoke hoods for passengers on British airlines, after an accident at Manchester airport last year.

Visit denied

The wife of the British-born journalist held in Peking was denied permission to visit him as hopes of an early release faded after six days.

Willey is back

Peter Willey, the Leicester all-rounder, has been recalled to the England side in place of the injured John Embury for the first Test match against New Zealand at Lord's tomorrow.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Leaders, Letters, etc. with corresponding page numbers.



Eye-of-the-wedding wave from Miss Ferguson, watched by a Clarence House footman.

Annette Cowley's plea fails

By John Goodbody

Annette Cowley, the South African-born swimmer, yesterday lost her case in the High Court to be reinstated in the English team for the 13th Commonwealth Games...

Reagan refuses to back sanctions against Pretoria

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan adamantly rejected the inter-national clamour for punitive sanctions against South Africa yesterday, declaring that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was right to denounce them as immoral and utterly repugnant.

Flights of fancy at the Palace

By Alan Hamilton

Miss Sarah Ferguson plans to learn to fly, so that when her husband comes home from a hard day in the helicopter, she knows what he is talking about.

Miss Ferguson disclosed her ambition in an unusually frank, intimate and frequently comical interview shown on BBC 1 and ITV last night, on the eve of today's wedding.

Sitting in the Prince's quarters at Buckingham Palace, the couple laughed, bounced jokes off each other, and generally gave the impression of enjoying themselves hugely.

Asked how they were feeling as their wedding approached, Miss Ferguson said simply: "Great." Prince Andrew confessed to being "Exhausted, but beginning to be on a real high."

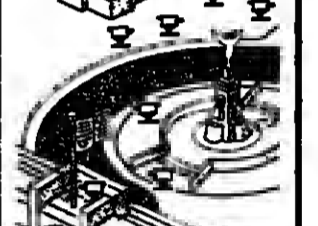
Royal Wedding

The Times guide to the wedding of the year



A modern couple: profiles of Andrew and Sarah Page 9

All the Queen's horses: guide to the ceremonial procession Page 10



The armchair guest: following the processional route on television Page 11

Inside the Abbey: who sits where and full order of service Page 12

PLUS: The Honey Bee and the Thistle, a celebratory poem by Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate; Norman St John-Stevenson on Royal liberation; Philip Howard on Royal Times past Page 16

TOMORROW

On the day The Times' team of writers and photographers provide the most vivid reports of a right Royal day

Last-minute blow to Howe mission

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sir Geoffrey Howe's mission to South Africa was dealt a further blow yesterday when the United Democratic Front, the most important of the radical anti-apartheid organizations still operating legally, announced that none of its representatives would meet the Foreign Secretary.

In a memorandum delivered to the embassies of Britain and other EEC countries, the UDF accused European governments of having "chosen to placate the nationalist Government" at a time "when the black majority and white democrats are under the severest attack ever launched by this fascist regime in the history of our country".

Calling for immediate punitive action against Pretoria, it said it would not meet Sir Geoffrey "or any other emissary of European governments" until the South African Government had: released all political prisoners and detainees; lifted the ban on the ANC and other organizations; and disbanded the security forces.

scrapped all security and discriminatory legislation; Sir Geoffrey will meet President Botha and Mr "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister today.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis L. de Graaff, yesterday angrily rejected a reported claim that he had told the Commonwealth Emergency Persons Group that violence in South Africa could be controlled if "enough blacks" were shot.

Mr Malcolm Fraser, the former Australian Prime Minister, was reported to have made the claim in Washington. If he had been correctly reported Mr Fraser had told "a blatant lie", Mr L. de Graaff declared. "No responsible government official would make a statement like the one attributed to me."

LONDON: Sir Geoffrey dashed back from Brussels at lunchtime yesterday after the meeting of EEC foreign ministers for briefings on the latest developments before leaving for Johannesburg (Rodney Cowton writes).

In Brussels he said his mission was difficult but not without hope.

Morocco talks stay secret

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Rabat (AP) - Secret talks between King Hassan of Morocco and Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, on the Middle East turmoil continued yesterday under an almost total news blackout in Morocco.

For the second day the Moroccan media maintained their silence on the unexpected visit by Mr Peres, the first by an Israeli Prime Minister to any Arab country other than Egypt. There was an outcry, however, from militant Arabs.

The venue for the talks, the King's secluded summer palace at Ifrane, 125 miles east of Rabat, was ringed by troops and police, and access was barred to all outsiders.

Israeli journalists who arrived with Mr Peres on Monday were in a luxury hotel inside the security ring and apparently were not allowed to communicate with the outside world.

But Moroccan officials for the first time admitted privately that the talks were in progress.

Ridley moves to cut rate rises

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday paved the way for low rate rises next year, in the run-up to a possible general election, by boosting the central government grant to local authorities by £1.1 billion or 9.3 per cent.

He also raised the ceiling on total council spending to £25.2 billion, so absorbing into Government spending targets nearly all the current £2 billion town hall overspending.

Other measures announced in the Commons aimed at increasing the "penalties for the reckless" were an end to redistribution of grants received from high-spending councils and the rate-capping of 20 authorities - 19 of which are Labour run.

"This will mean that if authorities spend in line with the generous provision we have made, there should on average be no need for rate bills to increase at all," he said to the delight of fellow Tories.

"Ratepayers will have the certainty that the blame for high rate increases lies fairly and squarely at the door of their local authority."

Gas prices may be on way down

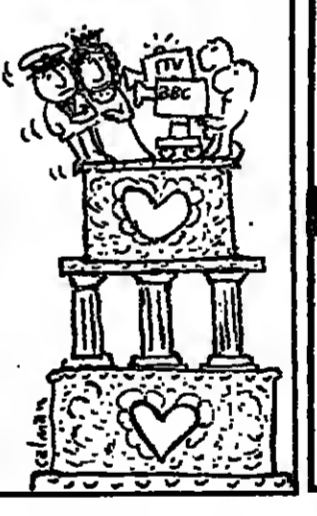
By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Gas, due to be sold in the world's biggest privatization project, yesterday announced profits of £688 million and may cut its prices early next year.

The company gained 370,000 new customers, paid £525 million in gas levy, £262 million in tax, and invested £571 million in capital projects. Sales of cookers and other appliances rose by 10 per cent and made a profit of £11.9 million, up nearly £10 million.

Sir Denis Rooke, the chairman, said the corporation had met all targets set by the Government. If oil prices continued to be depressed and the pound remained strong, he believed the corporation had "a sporting chance" of keeping gas prices at present levels or reducing them. Gas prices last rose, by an average of 1.7 per cent, in May.

Turnover rose from £6,914 million to £7,687 million, and the number of employees fell by more than 3,300 to 89,747.



Continued on page 20, col 8

Advertisement for James Watson & Co. Scotch Whisky. Features a bottle of whisky, a glass, and a rooster. Text includes 'Quality in an age of change' and 'Pound drops to \$1.49'.

Faster trains planned as BR reports £1.2m profit

A big increase in the speed of rail travel between many of the main towns and cities is planned for the 1990s, the chairman of British Rail, Sir Boh Reid, disclosed yesterday.

He was introducing a glowing report for last year which included a £1.2 million profit instead of the £420 million loss reported for the previous year after the miners' strike. The last time British Rail made a profit was in 1983 when it was £7.8 million.

On speed, he said that top speeds on Inter-City trains are planned to rise from 125mph to 140mph and up to 30 minutes will be knocked off the present fastest times between places such as London and Edinburgh. That journey now takes four and a half hours for 400 miles.

The main beneficiary will be the East Coast main line which is being electrified. New high-speed electric trains are due to enter service in three years' time.

Improvements are also planned on the London to Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow routes by smoothing curves in the track and introducing faster trains. Services to Wales and the West Country and the south and east coasts should also benefit.

Passenger traffic, at 18,800 million passenger miles, was the highest for seven years and punctuality and reliability were improving.

"Enormous management

effort" was going into improved timekeeping, Sir Robert said. Cancellations were expected to be reduced from 1.2 per cent of timetabled trains last year to a target 1 per cent this year.

About 90 per cent of London commuter trains and 82 per cent of Inter-City trains should reach their destinations within five minutes of the right time this year.

Other features of the report were:

- **Investment:** A £2,000 million programme now underway is the biggest for 25 years and is "beginning to breathe new and vigorous life into the nation's railways", Sir Robert said.
- **Taxpayers' support:** At £919 million was £131 million lower in real terms than three years ago.
- **Manpower:** Down by nearly 4,500 last year and, after the unions' recent rejection of industrial action, further reductions of 5,000 jobs in engineering and maintenance alone would be carried out in the most humane possible way. But British Rail would still need 7,000 recruits a year.
- **Inter-City and London commuter lines:** Both report some improved carryings and results, but rail freight lost £65 million, partly as a result of the miners' strike and the dispute over driver-only freight trains, which was now settled.

Parents of shot boy claim for distress

By Craig Seton

West Midlands Police are considering a compensation claim for "shock and distress" from the parents of John Shorthouse, aged five, who was shot dead by a police marksman last August.

Mrs Jacqueline Shorthouse and her husband, John, who is in prison, have already received £3,500, the maximum allowed for the death under the Fatal Accidents Act, 1976.

They are now claiming damages for nervous shock and distress to themselves and their two other sons, under common law.

Mr Trevor Rogers, of the West Midlands Police Authority, confirmed yesterday that a solicitor acting for the parents had asked the authority to put forward a formal offer to settle the claim.

It is understood that the authority will seek the advice of specialist counsel before it decides whether to make an offer to the family.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, Birmingham, said recently that the parents should receive about £10,000.

John Shorthouse was shot dead by Police Constable Brian Chester during an armed police raid on his parent's Birmingham maisonette.

PC Chester was acquitted of manslaughter by a jury at Stafford Crown Court earlier this month and has returned to duty.

The dead boy's father is serving a five-year prison term for his part in a robbery at a Welsh restaurant two days before the fatal shooting.

Ferries frustrated by tunnel Bill talks

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

A confrontation with Channel ferry operators is looming as the Government attempts to push through the Channel Tunnel Bill.

In the latest move to stop the project becoming bogged down in Parliament, the Select Committee hearing objections yesterday ruled ferry companies could not argue against the £3 billion rail link.

Government officials and project backers fear the link, supported by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the French government, could flounder if all objectors were allowed to put their case. It faces a six-month delay because of a miscalculation by government advisers on the strength of objections.

Eurotunnel, the English-French consortium behind the project, said the delay would not endanger the tunnel but would inevitably increase costs and raise doubts about its financial backing.

The Bill could be scrapped if it has not gone through all its stages before the next election.

Mr Gerard Ryan, counsel for the ferry companies, appealed for £100 million compensation for damage caused by the link.

Mr Alex Fletcher, committee chairman and Conservative MP for Edinburgh Central, said: "We do not wish to hear evidence on the viability of the construction, operation and maintenance of the fixed link." He said the committee was required to listen to petitioners concerned that their interests should be protected or compensated. But it was not required to hear evidence on the principle of the Bill, which has received a second reading in the Commons.

A Sealink spokesman said: "This gag suggests that the Eurotunnel finances do not add up, as we have frequently suggested, and that the whole basis of its financing is very suspect." He refused to say whether Sealink was considering legal action to gain compensation.

He said: "It does seem extraordinary that the select committee will not examine the full independent economic case which compares the finances of the tunnel and the ferries. This has to be presented to ensure that the ferries are given a fair chance to compete against the tunnel."

Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet South and an opponent of the tunnel scheme, described the ruling as "an outrageous suppression of free speech".

Ferry companies and other objectors barred from the hearing will have a chance to put their case before the House of Lords select committee later this year.

Sealink estimates it will be forced to lay-off 4,000 of its 4,500 staff, at a cost of £30 million-£50 million.



The Prime Minister greeting Mrs Nancy Reagan outside 10 Downing Street yesterday. The American first lady is in London for tomorrow's royal wedding. (Photograph: Leslie Lee)

State may back new teacher pay deal

By Mark Dowd

The Government may be prepared to underwrite increases in teachers' salaries in exchange for "an uninterrupted flow of education of the highest standard", Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, hinted yesterday.

He was giving his first evidence to the Commons select committee on education since replacing Sir Keith Joseph.

At Monday's meeting of the Burnham management committee, local authority leaders made clear that they were prepared to offer a pay and conditions package "substantially above" the £1.25 billion deal over four years offered last autumn.

Representatives of the employers and the teaching unions will meet in Coventry this weekend for a two-day negotiating session and Mr Baker said the Government accepted the responsibility of funding part of any agreement.

Nevertheless, it was concerned about "the overall money that is available, which has to be balanced against other calls on the nation's resources".

Mr Baker would want to be satisfied that a much more rigid codification of teachers' contractual duties and responsibilities could be agreed before talking about more money.

The cost of implementing the local authorities' peace package could be as high as £2.5 billion.

Responding to suggestions that some schools were operating in a "semi-vacuum situation" through the introduction of the GCSE exam, Mr Baker said he was fully satisfied that enough progress was being made in schools.

"More preparations have been done for this exam than for any other in our history," he said.

He made particular reference to one school he visited recently which traditionally started teaching for the academic year in July. There, he said, instruction for the GCSE exams in physics had begun.

The education department would soon begin a promotional campaign directed at employers and trades unions to explain more thoroughly the workings of the examination.

Top jobs hope for Catholics

By Richard Ford

The number of Roman Catholics working in the Northern Ireland Civil Service has increased by 6 percentage points from 1980 to 1985, but Protestants still dominate in the most senior posts.

The Government believes, however, that that is a result of employment practices of more than 20 years ago and that in the future there will be a better balance between Roman Catholics and Protestants in the higher ranks of the service.

Figures released in a government report yesterday show the religious divide in the Civil Service on January 1, last year, at 63.6 per cent Protestant and 36.4 per cent Roman Catholic compared with 69.3 per cent Protestant and 30.7 per cent Roman Catholic in 1980.

Protestants form 62 per cent of the general population in the province and Roman Catholics 38 per cent.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, said that the Civil Service, which employs 22,500 people, "was a quite remarkable flagship for the province and had made every attempt to recruit on merit".

The report shows that increases in the number of Roman Catholics employed in the service happened in all occupational groups examined, but that the highest percentage of Roman Catholics employed were at clerical and clerical assistant level and the highest percentage level of Protestants occurred at the level of deputy principal and senior principal and above.

Cowley appeal on Games ban fails

By Richard Ford

The South African born swimmer Annette Cowley failed yesterday in the High Court to overturn the ban on her appearing in the England team at the Commonwealth Games.

The Vice Chancellor, Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, refused to grant the British freestyle champion a declaration that the decision of the Commonwealth Games Federation was "wrong in law".

The judge said far from being "manifestly incorrect" the decision was "manifestly correct".

Miss Cowley, aged 19, said last night: "I would have loved to have swum for England. In the meantime I will continue in the hope that one day I will be able to swim for my country."

Miss Cowley seemed in good humour when she faced a press conference with England team officials after the decision. "If I didn't smile it would be tears. This is where my heart is. This is where I am going to come back to".

Miss Cowley is studying at an university in Texas but intends to move to England after her studies and complete the 12-month residence qualification required by international rules.

Mr David Reeves, Secretary of the Amateur Swimming Association, said it intended to challenge the rules laid down by FINA, the international governing body, which had made Miss Cowley ineligible.

The High Court ruling had said that the function of the court was to correct errors of law and decide if the federa-



Annette Cowley at the games village yesterday.

Clamp on visitor's passports

By Richard Evans Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, last night announced a tightening up of procedures for obtaining British Visitor's Passports, after growing abuse by criminals and foreigners.

Applicants have to produce only one document from a selected list as evidence of identity, but the Home Office has heard of cases where passports have been obtained by people giving the wrong name. Others are not qualified for a passport because they do not have British citizenship.

Mr Hurd said last night: "There have been instances in which British Visitor's Passports have been obtained by people not entitled by identity, or nationality, to use them."

The visitor's passport, which is cheaper than the standard passport, lasts for only one year.

In a written Commons answer, the Home Secretary said he had decided to introduce changes in the documents required from applicants, in an attempt to prevent the abuse.

From September, all applicants will have to produce a document from each of two groups listed by the Home Office, except in cases where people can provide an expired, uncanceled standard passport.

Union 'inaction' on violence

By Tim Jones

A High Court judge said yesterday he found it significant that in spite of print union condemnations of violence there was not a "scrap of evidence" of any action being taken against guilty members.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith made his remark on the ninth day of News International's attempt to curb what it says are unlawful picketing, marches and demonstrations outside its new plant at Wapping, east London, and other premises owned by the company or its subsidiaries.

But Mr Eldred Tabachnik, QC, appearing for Mr Michael Britton, a Sogat '82 official against whom the company is seeking an injunction, said it was one thing to condemn violence and another to identify the wrong-doers.

Mr Britton had been described as a chief steward and that was not denied nor in dispute. Mr Tabachnik said his client had made it clear he deplored such actions as following people from their place of work or taking their photographs.

"He has never seen any violent behaviour by an official picket and never encouraged, organized or condoned such actions. He would do his best to prevent it from occurring."

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith is being asked to grant injunctions banning the print unions Sogat '82 and the NGA, plus named officials, from staging anything but a peaceful picket of six people at the plant where *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *News of the World* are published.

Earlier, Mr James Goudie, QC, for the NGA, said Mr Bruce Matthews, managing director of News International, was "guilty of a falsehood" in stating that arrangements with TNT, the distribution company, were only for distributing the group's proposed new evening newspaper.

He said union claims that the new newspaper had been part of a secret plan to transfer existing titles to Wapping was in no way diminished by the most recent affidavits submitted by Mr Matthews and by Mr Charles Wilson, editor of *The Times*.

Wapping dispute

By Tim Jones

Three London boroughs which have banned *The Times* and other News International titles from their libraries in support of 5,500 dismissed print workers will have to defend their actions in the High Court.

Mr Justice Macpherson of Chury yesterday gave leave to Times Newspapers Limited, News Group Newspapers and News International to seek orders ending the backing of their titles after hearing the boroughs were embarking on a strategy of "masterly delay".

Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for News International, said the Boroughs of Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Camden had devised their tactics after advice from leading counsel.

Mr Lester alleged the three authorities had acted for improper or political or other reasons by "putting their weight behind the organizations currently engaged in the Wapping dispute."

He alleged they were guilty of an abuse of power under the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964, which imposed a duty on every library authority to provide a comprehensive and effective library service.

The *Times Educational Supplement* and other titles are also affected by the ban which a dozen other authorities have also imposed.

The High Court action is scheduled for October.

Court action to end library ban of papers

By Tim Jones

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Cockle move

By Richard Ford

Mr Justice Rose reserved judgement in the High Court yesterday as to whether the solicitors Herbert Smith & Co had been negligent in failing to protect the secret formula essential to the bottling of cockles by Leslie Paus, from Burry Port, South Wales.

Skeleton find

By Richard Ford

Workmen building an extension to Ivy House, at Shalbourne, Wiltshire, the home of Sir Dermot Renn Davis, Chief Justice of Gibraltar, yesterday unearthed two skeletons, believed to be from the seventeenth century.

Graves guard

By Richard Ford

A 24-hour guard is being mounted on Holy Trinity churchyard, Bordesley, Birmingham, to deter grave robbers while up to 3,000 bodies are exhumed and moved for reburial in individual, coffin-sized casks, making way for a road-widening scheme.

Yacht found

By Richard Ford

The 60ft Italian racing yacht Berluchi, missing since taking part in the recent Carlsberg Transatlantic race, was found yesterday, capsized and with her keel gone, 600 miles off Land's End. There was no trace of her two-man crew.

IS YOURS A MAXWELL HOUSE?

Maxwell House is a brand of coffee. The advertisement shows a row of houses with a sign that says "WELCOME". Below the houses are two mugs of coffee, one labeled "MAXWELL HOUSE" and the other "MAXWELL HOUSE".

Teachers' plea to keep school sports alive

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Teachers' unions and educational bodies struggling to arrest the decline of rugby, cricket and football in state schools, agreed yesterday to ask the Government for a new flexible contract to pay staff for supervising out-of-school activities.

The eight organizations, which met the Central Council of Physical Recreation in London, proposed that PE staff should work less during regular school hours and be available for extra-curricular coaching.

They also decided that each area should have a body to extend the use of sports centres for school-children and educational premises for the public.

Although all agreed that there should be a strengthening of links with sports clubs near schools, Mr Peter Lawson, secretary of the council, said that by restricting team games to clubs they would become increasingly middle-class.

To handle what Mr Lawson terms a "ramp" of talented children, who may never be recognized, teachers agreed there should be a new system to identify outstanding competitors.

The organizations represented were: the National Union of Teachers, Professional Association of Teachers, National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association, the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, the Secondary Heads Association, National Association of Head Teachers and the National Council for Schools' Sports.

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Realizing a

Howe mission to S Africa might be prelude to PM talks with Botha

APARTHEID

The Prime Minister does not exclude the possibility of having personal talks with President Botha of South Africa, inside or outside South Africa. Mrs Thatcher indicated during question time exchanges in the Commons. She was replying to Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C) who asked her to keep that option open in the critical weeks ahead.

Mrs Thatcher explained that obviously she would like to see the results of what Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, as President of the 12 EEC member states, was able to achieve on his visit to South Africa, which was about to take place before saying anything further.

She hoped the African National Congress would agree to meet Sir Geoffrey on his visit to South Africa. If they did not, she added, it would cast doubt on their attempt to solve the problem by peaceful means.

Replying to questions about the position of the Queen, Mrs Thatcher made it clear she proposed to follow the well-established practice of predecessors and not answer questions direct or indirect about the monarch.

The Prime Minister also declared that to commit Britain to imposing sanctions against South Africa would be to undermine the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in August was absurd.

There were loud jeers from the Opposition but cheers from Conservative backbenchers when she stated she hoped to have an audience with the Queen later in the day.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, demanded that Mrs Thatcher should make a categorical statement in favour of sanctions in order to restore participation in the Commonwealth Games. He said the boycott of the Games was entirely Mrs Thatcher's fault and that she was spoiling the Games, rupturing the Commonwealth and sabotaging the mission of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Secretary, to South Africa.

The issue was first raised by Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, who asked: In all her considerations with our Commonwealth partners of the

measures which we should be taking against the South African Government, what weight does the Prime Minister attach to her need to safeguard the position of Her Majesty as head of the Commonwealth?

Mrs Thatcher: I propose to follow the well-established practice of my predecessor and not answer questions directly or indirectly about the monarch. Sir Edward Gardner (Fylde, C): Would she not agree that two main aims of any policy towards South Africa should be to end as



Townsend: Keep open chance of talks with Botha

soon as possible the system of apartheid and, secondly, to protect the victims of apartheid from any unnecessary and avoidable suffering and bloodshed?

Both these aims must override and overrule all other considerations, including who will or will not take part in the Commonwealth Games.

Mrs Thatcher: I wholly agree with him. It is our aim to end apartheid as soon as possible. (Labour interruptions) — by negotiation and not by applying punitive sanctions, which would hit those we most wish to help.

I agree wholly with him that the Games are the Commonwealth Games and it would be best if those who are the bottling would reconsider their decision and come and join in the Games.

Mr Kinnock: Following the Harare meeting, is it not clear that a categorical statement from the Prime Minister committing the British Government to the imposition of sanctions against South Africa would increase the probability of restoring participation in the Games, would improve the prospects of the heads of Government meet-

ing in August reaching productive conclusions and at the same time strengthen the hand of the Foreign Secretary on his visit to South Africa?

Will the Prime Minister now make such a categorical statement?

Mrs Thatcher: No. He is asking me to make a categorical statement before the heads of Government meeting considering the matter. That is absurd.

Mr Kinnock: By failing to make such a categorical statement for which the Commonwealth leaders both black and white have repeatedly asked, the Prime Minister is spoiling the Games, rupturing the Commonwealth and sabotaging the mission of her Foreign Secretary.

Does she not realize that the Harare statement was an olive branch, or is she in such a state of paranoia she cannot tell the difference between an olive branch and a club?

Mrs Thatcher: He is asking us to reach a conclusion before the meeting which meets to consider the matter. That is an absurd way to go about things.

The Commonwealth Games do not belong to Britain and not even to Scotland. They belong to the Commonwealth and the countries who are withdrawing are damaging their own Games and our damaging the chances of their own athletes. As far as the heads of Government conference is concerned, we shall consider before we conclude.

Mr Kinnock: One thing she does say that is true is that the Commonwealth Games are not directly her business. What is her business is the withdrawal from the Games because that is entirely her fault. Because that is a categorical statement in favour of sanctions is absurd, does she think Rajiv Gandhi is absurd? (Some Conservative backbenchers "Yes")

Mrs Thatcher: I am referring to the Nassau accord. It said: "The heads of Government representatives, after an appropriate time will then meet to review the situation. If in their opinion adequate progress has not been made within this period we shall consider the adoption of further measures."

The Leader of the Opposition is following his old trick of reaching a conclusion before the meeting is even held.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C): In view of the crisis in South Africa and

Britain's difficult position inside the Community on this issue, will she at least keep open the possibility of personal talks with State President Botha inside or outside South Africa in the critical weeks ahead?

Mrs Thatcher: The Foreign Secretary goes to South Africa today (Tuesday) to have talks with the President and a number of other people in South Africa. There is more than one set of talks. He may need to go again later.

I should like to consider the results of what he is able to achieve as president of the 12 countries of the Community. I do not exclude what Mr Townsend says.

Mr James Craigie (Glasgow, Lab): I am sure that the recent comments about the rift between Number 10 and the Palace has arisen from certain sections of the Tory establishment — (Conservative protests) — who feel that she has been in the job too long as Prime Minister and has developed monarchical tendencies.

Mrs Thatcher: May I make clear once again that I propose to follow the well-established practice of my predecessors and not answer questions, direct or indirect, about the monarchy?

I note that Mr Craigie has no complaints about how the Government is running the affairs of the country.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Con): I am sure that any comment on the relationship with the Palace, would she comment on her backbenchers and the report on the front page of the Times yesterday which said that Tories accused of Thatcher-baiting?

What does she intend to do about such treachery? (Laughter) Or is it a plot by the editor of the Tory Times and Rupert Murdoch to drive a wedge between the Palace and Downing Street? Many of us hope that she will not be forced into resigning her position on constitutional grounds because we think she is one of the best vote winners the Labour Party has.

Mrs Thatcher: I shall continue to answer questions, in the hope that one day the standard of questions from the Opposition will improve. (Conservative laughter and cheers)

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich, West, Lab): In view of her evasive answer last week

will she take this opportunity to clarify her position? Is she in favour of early majority rule for South Africa or not? This House demands an answer.

Mrs Thatcher: I am in favour of the process decided and discussed, and described in the Nassau accord, about apartheid, which sent the Eminent Persons Group to South Africa, when it said: "We agree on the compelling urgency of dismantling apartheid and erecting the structures of democracy in South Africa. The latter, in particular, demands a process of dialogue involving the true representatives of the majority black population of South Africa."

"We went on: "We believe that we must do all we can to assist the process while recognizing that the forms of political

settlement in South Africa are for the people of that country — all the people — to determine."

That was the unanimous view of the entire Commonwealth.

Later, an attempt by Mr Richard Caborn (Sheffield Central, Lab) to bring in his South Africa (Sanctions) Bill to provide for the application of the Nassau Accord in relation to sanctions against South Africa, a move was opposed by Mr Cranley Oakes (Woking, C), failed by 243 votes to 196 — majority against. 47.

Ashton: What is she doing about Tory treachery

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Motion on Supplementary Benefit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations, Social Security Bill, Wages Bill, Agriculture Bill, and Dockyard Services Bill, Lords amendments.

Finance Bill, Financial Services Bill, committee, second day.

Mr Richard Ottaway (Nottingham North, C): He said that if the voluntary code does not work he may introduce legislation, and some of us say that should be sooner rather than later, but how does he intend to monitor the success of the voluntary code?

Mr Trippier: I have one effective way of monitoring the success. There are 130 different codes printed and now I have just recently authorized the reprinting of this one so the demand is considerable.

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Mr Henry Bellingham (North West, C): What extra measures would be put on some of the biggest firms in the land that only pay bills twice or three times a year?

Mr Trippier: I sent the code of practice to the 100 largest firms in the country, a number of whom are guilty of delaying payment of bills.

There is an opportunity for combining the code of practice and the Finance Act 1982 legislation which allows interest to be charged as soon as the matter has been taken to court.

New MP

Mrs Llin Golding, the new Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, took her seat in the Commons.

he had been a director of the National Theatre for many years, added: There is great financial control. The nation would be added to have two directors of two great companies. Sir Peter Hall and Mr Trevor Nunn, as directors of the subsidised theatre when the commercial world wanted them very badly and would have paid them much more.

Lord Birkett (Ind) said: The suggestion put about recently that Sir Peter Hall and Mr Trevor Nunn have somehow usurped their own distinguished careers at the expense of the theatres they direct is absurd.

Immigration figures

More accepted to settle in the UK

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The number of people accepted for settlement in the United Kingdom has risen again. At 55,400, the total was about 4,400 more than in 1984 and 1,900 more than in 1983.

Sick man left hours in corridor

Three lose Flockton Grey plea

Abortion figures

RSG SETTLEMENT

Proposals to put pressure on local authorities which over-spent their budgets — and to achieve stability in their spending and rates demands — were announced by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a Commons statement.

He said he would: introduce legislation to end the paradox of some erring councils getting part of their withheld grant money returned to them under the Government's repelling procedure;

publish a report detailing how local authorities would be chosen for ratecapping in the next financial year — a formula linked to spending patterns going back as far as five years;

introduce a system of borrowing schemes that were passed off as though they were expenditure.

Mr Ridley said the Rate Support Grant Settlement for 1987-88 should allow either no increase, or only a very low one, to rate bills if local authorities budgeted responsibly.

Dr John Canningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, condemned the statement as cleverly worded and presented, but grotesquely misleading. He accused Mr Ridley of reducing spending and increasing penalties on all local authorities.

Mr Ridley contended that the settlement meant that high rate bills or poor standards of service, or both, would be entirely the fault of the authorities concerned.

For local authority current expenditure to be proposed at £25.2 billion, that was a cash increase of £2.9 billion — or 3.4 per cent — over the sum given in the 1987-88 Public Expenditure White Paper.

This represents a reasonable assessment of what local authorities will spend (he said), given the level of inflation and their past pattern of spending.

But it does not follow that I believe local authorities need to spend at this level. There is widespread scope for carrying out services more efficiently and for cutting out extravagant provision.

For that reason, he was reviewing, and would consult local authorities about, the aggregate of grant related Expenditure Grants (GRE). The aim was to keep these broadly steady in real terms.

He was proposing about £12.85 billion in Aggregate Expenditure Grants (AEG).

This would maintain the level of relevant expenditure — the same as in the current financial year, but it amounted to a cash increase of more than £1 billion.

If local authorities spend in line with the generous provision we have made (he said) there should be no need for rates bills to increase at all, able to plan their budgets and rates with much greater assurance.

For councils that the Government would be ratecapping for a second consecutive financial year, this was a serious attack on local government. Mr Ridley would claw back and keep most of the so-called extra £1 billion.

Mr Ridley said such of what Sir Ian had said had been incorporated into the statement.

Mr Allan Roberts (Boole, Lab) said this was a serious attack on local government. Mr Ridley would claw back and keep most of the so-called extra £1 billion.

Mr Ridley: It entirely depends on how much money Birmingham budgets to spend. If it budgets to spend in accordance with this year's spending plan, 3.4 per cent it will maximize its grant take.

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Minister sees no need for rates bill increases

— entered into in England and Wales after midnight (Tuesday). I am considering exemption (he said) so that authorities which genuinely need to use the device for its proper purpose for an occasional project are not disadvantaged.

Any such exemption would take effect from a date to be announced.

Dr Canningham said the Government wanted to reduce grant-related aggregates and increase penalties on all local authorities by making the slope and more punitive than ever before.

The Government was effectively saying: Here is additional money in the settlement, which will be taken away later, almost certainly in at least equal amount.

Did not that mean a massive windfall for the Treasury — up to, and perhaps beyond, £1 billion — to be used for purposes other than local authority spending?

Any improvement in efficiency which local authorities might be able to achieve would amount to less than 1 per cent of total planned expenditure.

Mr Ridley replied that he wondered whether Dr Canningham had been sent a copy of the right statement. (Laughter).

He had never heard a poorer response to a statement that was generally welcomed by MPs, nor a more incompetent analysis.

Mr John Heddle (Mid-Suffolk, Con) said that it was no coincidence that of the 20 rate-capped authorities, 19 were Labour controlled and one, Tower Hamlets, was Liberal controlled.

Industry and commerce in other cities would be grateful for this protection so that they can go about creating jobs and work.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, Lab) welcomed the increase of nearly £3 million. The view of the local authorities was that the increase only took into account inflation over the past few years and probably would not even compensate for increases in wages they would have to pay for police, teachers and other public services.

The capital controls were the one thing that local authorities most resented. They wanted to spend their capital as they chose and not have a Secretary of State dictate to them that they could spend less and less of it every year that went by.

Mr Ridley said local authorities must be responsible for the wages they negotiated with their employees.

"Authorities would get more grant provided they did not forfeit it by engaging in overspending..."

Mr Ian Gilmore (Chesham and Amersham, Con) said much of the trouble this year was caused not by the local authority but by the Government setting a taper point for the reduction of grant totally in the wrong place.

Would he assure them that nothing so unjust and ridiculous could happen under the statement just announced?

Mr Ridley said much of what Sir Ian had said had been incorporated into the statement.

Mr Allan Roberts (Boole, Lab) said this was a serious attack on local government. Mr Ridley would claw back and keep most of the so-called extra £1 billion.

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COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The Prime Minister refused to be drawn into any comment on the rift with the Palace when she answered questions in the House of Commons yesterday. She was wise on both political and constitutional grounds.

Mrs Thatcher personally, and the Government collectively, have almost certainly been damaged politically by the episode. One of its most disturbing consequences is the probability that some of the mud will stick, even though there is no evidence that the Queen personally authorized any leak of her opinions.

Already, authorization or no authorization, one encounters a widespread assumption that the report did indeed reflect Her Majesty's judgement of Mrs Thatcher. When an extremely popular queen is believed to think poorly of her prime minister that is bound to be embarrassing to the prime minister.

All the more so when the specific criticisms appear to reinforce the doubts that many people have about Mrs Thatcher. "If she cannot get on with the Queen," they will tend to say, "then the really must be impossible."

Thatcher: no right to answer back

This is extremely unfair, on Mrs Thatcher. She has now been placed in the position so often occupied by the Palace. She has been attacked without having the right to answer back.

If she was tempted to do so, she was sensible not to succumb. The more that is made of the episode, the more Mrs Thatcher is likely to suffer. It was, therefore, shrewd politics not to fan the flames.

But there was another more important reason why the Prime Minister was right to behave yesterday with impeccable constitutional propriety. The belief that the Sovereign is above party politics, and therefore takes no position in public for or against the controversial policies of any government, is essential to the role of constitutional monarchy as it has evolved in this country. To undermine that belief would be to diminish in the long run the value of the monarchy itself.

It is tragic for British public life that this episode will now have placed a question mark in many people's minds where there ought to be unquestioning confidence. No matter how unfairly, the Queen will be thought to have taken a position on a range of contentious policies and to be less than enthusiastic about her Ministers.

This is an impression that ought to be just as disturbing to the Opposition parties as to the Government. In the short run they might hope to gain from Mrs Thatcher's disfigurement. But that would be a short-sighted attitude.

An Alliance stake in impartiality

In the long run they must know that parties of the Left would probably be even more likely to suffer from speculation that the Sovereign disapproved of them and their policies.

Labour's leadership may well have recognized this. It was notable that Neil Kinnock made no attempt yesterday to make political capital out of the incident.

The Alliance would, if anything, have an even stronger interest in preserving public confidence in the Queen's political impartiality. As both David Steel and David Owen made clear at last year's party conferences, their hopes are focussed on negotiating with one or other of the larger parties in a hung parliament.

The prospects for such negotiations would be better if the Queen were not prepared to grant a second dissolution automatically to a government that was voted down in the Commons; if it seemed that another administration might be formed that could command a majority in the House.

This stronger interpretation of the royal prerogative would, to my mind, be entirely justified. That is the field in which the Queen would serve the national interest by asserting her political responsibilities. But it could be done without too much contention only if there was general confidence in the political impartiality of the Palace.

There is a general interest among all parties in preserving the traditional belief that the Crown is above partisan politics. Mrs Thatcher did her best to reassert that tradition yesterday. It is a cause that deserves support from every quarter.

Hated villain complains

King David

King David

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Pensioner loses fight to work on

Hated villain complains

King David

More jobs, more work, since 1983

EMPLOYMENT

More than a million jobs had been created in the British economy since the Spring of 1983 and the rate of employment had gone up since the first quarter of 1983, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, said.

He was replying to Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab) who asked him to confirm that despite 16 massings of the figures since the Government took office, the underlying level of unemployment in the country was at the highest point for over 50 years.

Earlier Mr Clarke said the seasonally adjusted level of unemployed claimants in the UK this June represented 11.7 per cent of the working population.

Estimates on a consistent basis for June 1983 and June 1979 were 10.8 and 4.2 respectively.

Prison releases

An appeal by Mr Gerard Neale (North Cornwall, Lab) for an emergency Commons debate on the basis upon which violent criminals were released from prison on remitted sentences and on parole was rejected by the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill).

Mr Neale drew attention to a case in Bodmin where a violent criminal, some four years and two months after he had been convicted, was to return to the very locality of crime and of the family affected by it.

Minister's warning to late bill payers

SMALL FIRMS

If a pilot scheme to encourage voluntary payment by businesses of outstanding bills does not work, legislation may be necessary, Sir David Trippier, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said during Commons question time.

Asked about the response to a guidance booklet on payment of bills he said: I have received a considerable volume of correspondence from public bodies, large and small, and small business organizations, welcoming this initiative.

Many small businesses continue to emphasize the problems that late payment causes them.

Mr Richard Ottaway (Nottingham North, C): He said that if the voluntary code does not work he may introduce legislation, and some of us say that should be sooner rather than later, but how does he intend to monitor the success of the voluntary code?

Mr Trippier: I have one effective way of monitoring the success. There are 130 different codes printed and now I have just recently authorized the reprinting of this one so the demand is considerable.

We may have to consider legislation if the pilot scheme does not work. A number of small firm organizations have indicated to me there are occasions when small firms do not pay the bills of other small firms and

small firms may be responsible for payments to large firms.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Seven years ago this Government was elected on the basis of relieving small firms from the difficulties that surrounded them at that time. Now the Government is hammering small business.

Mr Trippier: That shows how very much out of touch he is with what is actually going on in the small business community. There has been a higher increase of small businesses than in recorded history.

The reason the Government is involved in the code of practice for late payments is that it knows there is a cash problem where large firms delay payment of bills to smaller ones.

Mr Henry Bellingham (North West, C): What extra measures would be put on some of the biggest firms in the land that only pay bills twice or three times a year?

Mr Trippier: I sent the code of practice to the 100 largest firms in the country, a number of whom are guilty of delaying payment of bills.

There is an opportunity for combining the code of practice and the Finance Act 1982 legislation which allows interest to be charged as soon as the matter has been taken to court.

New MP

Mrs Llin Golding, the new Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, took her seat in the Commons.

Theatre artistic directors defended

THE ARTS

The Minister for the Arts, Mr Richard Luce, had full confidence in the boards of the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company and in their ability to maintain value for money, Lord Bestead, Deputy Leader of the House, said at question time in the House of Lords.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C) referred to recent press allegations that the artistic directors of the two theatres, Sir Peter Hall and Mr Trevor Nunn, had made greater profits out of recent successes in their respective theatres which the successes had gone on to Broadway and other

commercial theatres than the two theatres themselves had made.

He said that when such very large sums of taxpayers' money — nearly £13 million — had been granted to the two theatres something more was needed to ensure there was a fair share when greater profits were made.

He added: Will the Government ensure that measures are taken to give the Arts Council greater control of the management so that the taxpayer, who has to finance the losses of these two theatres, gets a fair crack of the whip when they make these successes?

Lord Bestead: It is within the directors' conditions of service that they should be able to be properly rewarded for their

expertise. This is a question of balance between what is due to the companies and what is due to the directors.

Sir Kenneth Cork is chairing an Arts Council inquiry into the funding of the live theatre and the Minister for the Arts has asked him specifically to look at this issue and to produce guidelines for the future.

Lord Hamlyn-Nicholls (C): It is wrong that the directors should be blackballed because they have produced a success.

Lord Bestead: The enormous popular success of the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company are eloquent of the ability of the directors as well as of the staff and performers.

Aircraft passengers may be made to wear smoke hoods in fires

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Passengers on British airlines may be required to wear smoke hoods in the event of an aircraft fire in the event of an aircraft fire in the event of an aircraft fire.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) which said yesterday that a big international safety drive was needed to restore public confidence in air travel, has launched an inquiry into smoke hoods after last year's accident at Manchester airport where 55 people died in a fire after a British Airways flight failed to take off.

Of those, nearly 50 are thought to have been killed by smoke or fumes rather than from flames, and smoke hoods have long been advocated as a means of saving life in such circumstances.

Other accidents last year — the worst for air deaths for 20 years — included the Air India and Japan Airlines 747 disasters in which a total of 849 people died.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, authority chairman, introducing his annual report, promised yesterday that the smoke hoods study, involving consultation with, among others, airlines and user bodies, would be carried out with great urgency.

Results should be available in the autumn and implemented.

It may follow next year if the authority decides to go ahead.

If it does so decide all airlines registered in Britain would be fitted with smoke hoods that would almost certainly drop down automatically to the passenger's face as oxygen masks do now. The two types of mask may be combined.

Sealing off the atmosphere except through a filter, the simpler hoods would protect against fumes for up to five minutes in fires on the ground. Dearer versions suitable for fires in the air would protect passengers for about twenty minutes.

But Mr Tugendhat said that hoods had disadvantages. The most important guarantee of safety in case of fire is to get out of the aircraft as quickly as possible, he said, and hoods could cause delay.

They could mist up through condensation, make it more difficult to hear cabin staff instructions, and — though he did not say this — could cause suffocation through lack of oxygen if not properly designed.

Several smoke hoods are on the market at prices between £20 and £100.

They are fitted to all naval vessels and are supplied to

flight staff of various British and other airlines. Mr Tugendhat said that there was a big difference between the use of hoods by highly trained crews and by holidaymakers.

The only previous move in this direction was in the 1960s when the US Federal Aviation Administration made a study of the hoods, but it decided against the idea.

On air safety generally, Mr Christopher Tugendhat said: "The tragic accidents last year in different parts of the world, and especially the Manchester accident last August, have engaged the most serious and continuing attention of the authority's safety services."

The circumstances surrounding these accidents were different in every case, but the fact that they took place in such a short period of time and led to such a large loss of life has undoubtedly shaken public confidence.

This year, Mr Tugendhat said, had turned out so far to have an excellent safety record. But constant vigilance was necessary and, in addition to smoke hoods, the authority was acquiring or investigating fire resistant seats, cabin walls and ceilings, easier access to emergency exits, more fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors in lavatories.

Tourism boost for Falkland Islands

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Up to 300 tourists are expected to be flown by the Royal Air Force to the Falkland Islands this winter in the first big effort to build up tourism since the conflict of 1982.

The RAF operates the only air service into the islands, making up to three flights a week. Those are primarily used for carrying troops and supplies to and from the garrison, but the Ministry of Defence said spare seats could be made available to the Falkland Islands government.

Mr Stephen Green, British representative for Falkland Islands Tourism, said that five British tour operators and one in the United States, were offering bookings for 20 parties between November and next March, which is the Falklands' summer.

Most of the parties are being limited to eight people, though two, which will be accommodated solely in Port Stanley, will have up to 16 members each. The cost of the trips, including the flight and accommodation, will be about £2,500 a person.

Most interest was being shown in the islands' wildlife, but diving holidays, tours of the battlefields, and other activities were being catered for, Mr Green said.



Mr Harold "Dickie" Bird, the cricket umpire, displaying the insignia of the MBE, with which he was invested by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

Mr Bird, aged 53, a Yorkshireman, regarded by many as the world's best umpire, told the Queen it was the happiest day of his life. It was cricket's morning, Mr George "Gubby" Allen, aged 84, a former England captain who was capped 25 times and has been a powerful figure at Lord's for 65 years, was knighted.

Tories to penalize councils lacking civil defence plans

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to act against local authorities which do not produce proper civil defence plans. Already ministers are considering withholding grants from Avon, Mid Glamorgan and South Glamorgan county councils.

Many of the plans received from 50 other county authorities are incomplete. With few exceptions, there is little or no operational detail and in a number little more than a statement of intent, the Home Office said yesterday.

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, said the Government proposed to require authorities to pursue a rolling three-year programme, setting six monthly targets for the staged completion of detailed operational civil defence plans in all counties within two to three years.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, has reserve powers to give directions to local authorities on the exercise of their functions or, ultimately, to exercise them himself.

The sanction so far threatened is withholding civil defence grants, which have risen from £3.4 million in 1979-80 to an expected £13.7 million in 1986-87.

Behind the Government's action are the results of a questionnaire in 1984, which disclosed that, although most authorities in England and Wales had plans against hostile attack, the majority needed further work.

Almost all authorities had made some provision for emergency centres, but just over half needed to bring them up to the required level. Training took place almost everywhere, but more was needed. One or more volunteer groups existed in about two thirds of the authorities responding. More needed to be established.

Mr Robert Baker, aged 76, a retired executive, died when he fell from a second floor window when sleep walking, an inquest in Bristol was told yesterday.

Mr Baker had a long history of sleep walking and was found dead at 6.30am, still in his pyjamas, by a paper boy

Dominic Prout, aged 14, told the inquest in written evidence that when he looked up he could see a second floor window wide open and that the front door in the same flat had also been wide open.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Sleep walker's death

Pensioner loses fight to work on

A woman who claimed her Hampshire employers were guilty of sex discrimination because they made her retire at the age of 60 has lost her case.

Andrey Frew, a lettering designer of Chichester, Basingstoke, was forced to retire last month by a private Basingstoke printing firm, so she took them to a Southampton industrial tribunal, at which Miss Helen Marshall, a senior dietician, had begun her long fight to win the right for women in the public sector to work until they are 65.

The tribunal had rejected the claim of Miss Marshall, aged 62, of Bassetts, Southampton, that the local health authority's decision that she had to retire at 60 was "sexual discrimination."

She appealed to the European Court of Justice, which decided that under EEC law it was discrimination, and the Government is considering the legal implications.

But the tribunal has decided unanimously that Miss Frew's claim is not well founded.

She told the hearing that she knew she could not rely directly on Miss Marshall's case, but said it should "have regard" to the European court ruling.

She claimed it was unfair that she was forced to retire because she wanted to carry on working as men did, which allowed them to build up their pensions.

She also argued that she had the same bills to pay. The company, Thomas de la Rue, said she could not rely on the ruling because it applied only to member nations acting as employers.

Woollen labelling 'abused'

By Robin Young

Almost half the textile product samples taken by West Yorkshire trading standards department over the past two years have been deficient of their stated wool content by more than 10 per cent.

In an article in *The Monthly Review*, the journal of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, Mr Keith Hurley, director of the West Yorkshire service, says that of 452 samples, 208 were found to have labels overstating the wool content by more than 10 per cent. In two thirds of the cases, the cloth was found to have been imported from Italy.

Mr Hurley suggests that unfair competition in textile labelling has contributed to the rapid loss of jobs in Britain's textiles and clothing industry since 1978.

In some cases, he cites garments were marked "Pure New Wool" and carried the Woolmark symbol, yet proved to be one fifth polyester. One blouse claiming a 30 per cent wool content contained no wool at all, and a dress which was supposed to be half wool had only 4 per cent.

Mr Hurley says British manufacturers insisted on making claims that could not be substantiated, though they had made no checks, and knew that increasing amounts of cloth came from Italian mills specializing in producing mixed fibre yarn from recycled materials.

The Department of Trade's draft guidelines to new fibre content labelling regulations would further encourage widespread misstatements about the wool content of articles made with recycled yarn, he said.

'Hated village squire' complaint rejected

The Press Council has rejected a complaint about a *Daily Express* report of a village dispute which included hostile remarks about the squire.

The report said the village of Matfield, Kent, was angry at moves by the squire to throw Mr Jack Luery, aged 81, his gardener who was sick, out of a tied cottage.

Mrs Mary Jenner, of Matfield, was quoted saying Sir William Garthwaite, the squire, was hated by virtually everyone in Matfield for his actions.

Mrs Jenner complained to the editor about that and other quotes, and later to the Press Council that the article attributed to her comments she did not make.

She had made no personal comment about Sir William; the word "hate" was not in her vocabulary.

Mr Struan Cooper, managing editor, said both reporters involved insisted their accounts were true but Mrs

Jenner maintained that Mr Christopher Murphy, a freelance, misquoted her, and Mr Robert McGowan, a staff reporter, did not speak to her.

A transcript of Mr McGowan's notes recorded that he read to Mrs Jenner notes given to him by Mr Murphy, and that Mrs Jenner said that sounded about right.

Mrs Jenner told the council she did not make the alleged remarks to Mr Murphy; he asked her various questions and she agreed with him. He did not write anything down in her presence, she said, and there had been no follow-up call from the newspaper.

The Press Council concluded the complainant had failed to satisfy it that she did not generally express the sentiments ascribed to her in the report.

The quotation attributed to her may well not have been a direct statement, but assent to comments put to her. The Press Council was not satisfied that it was misleading.

King David's poppies

A small group of former servicemen and women placed a wreath of poppies at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, yesterday to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Mr Peter Williams, a war veteran and spokesman for the group Campaign Against Terrorism, said the attack on the British headquarters at the King David Hotel on July 22,

1946, which killed 123 people, marked the start of international terrorism.

He said the British Government had ignored the "terrible significance" of the terrorist attack during the past 40 years.

Mr Williams, from Norwich, said that the Campaign Against Terrorism was formed recently as a non-political group to campaign against all forms of terrorism.

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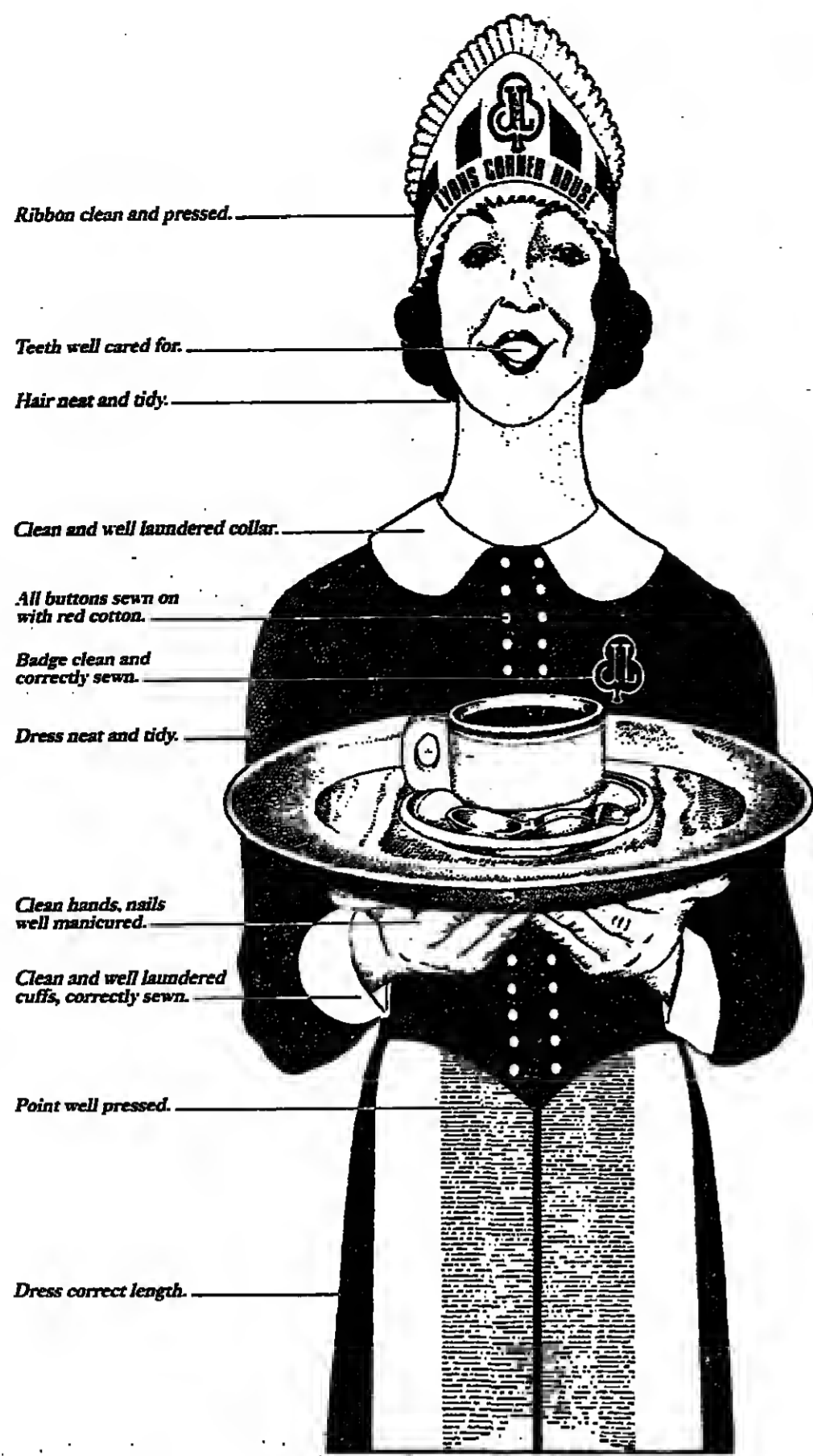
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50 years on, we still take pride in our appearance.

People have fond memories of the smartly-dressed 'Nippy' of pre-war Britain. She and the food she served were a huge success.

During the thirties Lyons Teashops and Corner Houses were so popular Lyons grew to be Britain's biggest caterer.

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GOING ON GROWING

Isra
Peres
comm
on pea

Moscow

Rocket attack
on Spanish
fishing vessel

González
From Richard Wynn
Madrid

Spain's Socialist leader, Felipe González, said on Monday that he was not surprised by the rocket attack on the Spanish fishing vessel 'El Faro' here, but before the attack he had been in the country for several days. The vice-minister of the interior, Juan José Narrete, said the attack was a 'terrorist' act. He was already in custody yesterday. The country's main newspaper, 'El País', said the attack was a 'terrorist' act. The country's main newspaper, 'El País', said the attack was a 'terrorist' act. The country's main newspaper, 'El País', said the attack was a 'terrorist' act.

هكرامن الأصيل

Israeli premier seeks negotiations before Shamir takes over

Peres tries to commit rival on peace talks

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

With less than three months of his allotted term as Prime Minister left to serve, Mr Shimon Peres has joined a new Middle East peace initiative, which he cannot hope will succeed before he has to hand over to his arch-rival, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader.

Mr Peres, who has always said he is prepared to negotiate Israeli-occupied land for peace, has gone to Morocco to try to persuade King Hassan that meaningful negotiations to solve the Palestinian problem must start very quickly or risk being delayed for years.

The new initiative, apparently taken with American advice, has been to try to use King Hassan, the Chairman of the Arab League, as a broker to open direct negotiations between Israel, King Hussein of Jordan and acceptable Palestinians. The timetable is short because the idea of "land for peace" is rejected outright by Mr Shamir, who, under the terms of the Israeli coalition government agreement, takes over on October 11.

The Moroccan King is known to have been in regular contact with senior Israeli officials and politicians, including Mr Peres, and he is always regarded here as being well disposed towards Israel, although prevented by Arab solidarity from showing any public signs of friendship.

This has meant that even the present visit has been kept a closely-guarded secret. Yesterday both the Prime Minister's office and the Foreign Ministry have refused to confirm formally that it was taking place. "There is no way I can confirm this visit at this time," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

It is understood that Mr Peres and the King agreed that no confirmation of the trip would be given until their meeting had taken place. The fact that it was widely leaked is seen as a likely sign that Mr Shamir, who as Foreign Minister was not even involved in the planning, wanted the news released.

King Hassan cancelled a planned visit to the United States in order to see Mr Peres and it is likely that he hopes any help he gives Israel will in turn improve his strained relations with Washington.

During the visit King Hassan is expected to sound out Mr Peres on how far the Israeli leader is prepared to go to achieve peace. This is

something the King has recommended to Arab leaders, to whom he suggested some time ago inviting a senior Israeli politician for talks.

For Mr Peres a successful visit is essential to improve his public standing following a loss of personal popularity after his uncertain handling of the "Shin Bet affair", concerning irregularities in the counter-intelligence agency.

He is known to have become increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress in the peace process, which he had made one of his priorities on coming to office in October, 1984.

He is also known to be worried that Mr Shamir sees little or no need to pursue the peace process. He believes that only by starting something which his successor cannot stop can he be sure of any negotiations having a chance after he hands over control of the government.

It was not clear here yesterday whether Mr Peres decided to travel to Morocco after some kind of exchange with King Hussein of Jordan. One of the Moroccan King's advisers, Mr Mohammed Awad, travelled to Amman on Monday to see King Hussein.

King Hassan is reported to have telephoned Amman at the weekend to learn at first hand about relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization following the closure of Fatah offices in Jordan earlier this month.

Jordan radio so far has only announced that the visit is taking place, with no comment. Mr Peres is due back in Israel today, when he is expected to brief the Cabinet on what has been achieved. He is already sure of an angry reception from the Right Wing, with Mrs Guela Cohen of the Tehiya Party already accusing him of being ready to hand over the West Bank, just as the Sinai was handed over to Egypt.

Moderate Palestinians in the occupied territories, of the kind who could be included in a peace negotiation of this type, have welcomed the visit. Mr Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, called it "a courageous and wise step". Mr Hanna Siniara, editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper Al Fajr, said that if the visit failed "radicalization will grow and we must prepare for conflict. The chances for peace will recede for the next 15 or 20 years."

Moscow condemns trip to Rabat

Moscow - Tass strongly attacked yesterday the trip to Rabat of Mr Shimon Peres, saying it was an attempt to revive the Camp David peace process, which had been "resolutely rejected by the Arabs"

(Christopher Walker writes). The Soviet news agency claimed that the United States supported the Israeli initiative, and said: "These efforts are being made at a time when the Israeli aggressors, far from



Fists raised in the Arab world as Mr George Habbash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, left, declares that the visit by Mr Shimon Peres of Israel to King Hassan of Morocco, right, could only deepen Arab divisions.

Syria's fury with King Hassan fails to arouse Arab world

From Robert Fisk Beirut

In a savage but lonely outburst of anger, Syria yesterday denounced King Hassan's "black treason" and broke off diplomatic relations with Morocco in protest at the King's meeting with Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister. But - save for some particularly vindictive editorials in leftist newspapers in Beirut - the Arab world responded mildly to the first meeting between an Arab and an Israeli leader since President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977.

An incredulous Colonel Gaddafi announced in Libya that he could "not believe this visit has really taken place" but contented himself by saying that if the two men have met, then it was "a grave violation" of the 1984 Morocco-Libyan treaty which might now have to be reconsidered through a referendum. This was scarcely the reaction expected of an Arab leader who once regarded himself as Nasser's spiritual heir.

Indeed, it was a sign of how vulnerable the Arabs now feel themselves to be - and how powerless amid their own disunity - that an event which would once have convulsed Arab capitals was greeted with little more than vague sur-

prise. The Egyptians even went so far as to offer their support to the visit.

Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization - which has good reason to suspect that the meeting will only serve to betray it - remained uncharacteristically silent.

Nevertheless, King Hassan will have to make personal security one of his prime concerns. There was a clear warning in the prediction of the daily *al-Hakika* that, like President Sadat, he would

ultimately be assassinated.

In Damascus, Syrian state radio quailed a government statement which urged all Arab leaders to follow President Assad's example of breaking off diplomatic relations with Morocco, advice which was not followed up by Syria's friends elsewhere in the Arab world.

Syrian citizens will henceforth be forbidden to visit Morocco and Mr Abdul-Wahab bin Massoud, the Moroccan Ambassador to Syria - who was summoned to the

Foreign Ministry in Damascus yesterday to be told of President Assad's displeasure - has been given a week to close down his embassy and leave the country with his four Moroccan diplomatic colleagues. Mr Ahmed Issa, the Syrian Ambassador in Rabat, has been ordered to return home.

Most Arab speculation was directed yesterday towards Amman where King Hussein spent much of Monday in a series of discussions - on the phone and by letter - with

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, President Assad and President Mubarak after receiving a message from King Hassan.

Despite assurances from the Jordanian Information Minister that the King had no advance warning of the Hassan-Peres meeting - he claimed that the messages had all concerned a forthcoming meeting of non-aligned nations - the Palestinians suspect that the Jordanian King had a hand in setting up the Moroccan visit.

George Bush, the American Vice-President, in Amman on Wednesday of next week has only fuelled a growing belief in the Arab world that the Americans and Israelis are engaged in joint diplomacy for a new Middle East initiative in which the kings of Jordan and Morocco will be used to isolate the PLO.

PLO officials in Beirut said yesterday that PLO offices closed down by the Jordanians two weeks ago would be moved to Baghdad.

Rocket attack on Spanish fishing vessel

Madrid - Rocket grenades and automatic weapons were fired at a Spanish fishing vessel from two Zodiac launches off the Western Sahara, setting the boat on fire and killing one of its 20 crew members, according to radio reports received here yesterday (Harry Debehus writes).

Polisario guerrillas, who have been waging a hit-and-run war against Morocco in the Western Sahara since 1975, are suspected of carrying out the attack on Monday.

Survivors of the fishing vessel *Andes*, which was four miles off the coast when it came under fire, were picked up by the Spanish hospital ship *Esperanza del Mar* and another fishing vessel.

A Soviet ship was also reportedly fired on yesterday in the same area.

Harare pulls out of two more events

Harare - Zimbabwe is to boycott the Commonwealth Arts Festival and the World Disabled Games in Stoke Mandeville unless the British Government promises sanctions against South Africa.

A troupe of 17 ostrich-plumed Ndebele war dancers from western Zimbabwe and six paraplegic athletes with two officials were due to leave for Britain on Monday night.

But spokesman for the National Arts Foundation and the Zimbabwe Association for the Disabled said that each had been told earlier in the day by the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture that their participation was "suspended until further notice."

Zimbabwe had no entry planned for the Edinburgh Festival before the boycott crisis arose.

South China storm leaves 1,000 missing

Hoog Kong (Reuters) - More than 300 Chinese fishing boats and about 1,000 fishermen are missing after a tropical storm lashed south China.

The Guangdong Department of Aquatic Products said yesterday from Canton that at least a dozen small vessels sank in Monday's storm, which carried winds gusting up to 60 miles an hour.

No reports of casualties had been received. Many boats might have taken shelter near offshore islands, but authorities feared some of the missing fishermen had drowned.

Ta Kung Pao, a pro-Peking newspaper in Hong Kong, said the storm triggered mudslides and flooding in western Guangdong. Provincial officials had said the Xijiang, a main tributary of the Pearl river, might burst its banks.

González defends his tactics

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Señor Felipe González, Spain's Socialist leader, under strain now because of the terrorist attack on the Defence Ministry here, put before Parliament yesterday his government programme for the next four years.

The vote, making him prime minister for the second time thanks to his party's absolute majority, will come after a debate tomorrow night.

Meanwhile, for the second time in three days, the Paris authorities have handed over rapidly a suspected member of Eta, Juan Nafarrete, nicknamed "Jauntxo", living in south-west France, and who was picked up on Monday night. He was already in Spanish police custody here in Madrid yesterday.

Eta attack rocks Spain

night to appeal to Spaniards to stay calm.

On Eta, the Basque armed separatist organization, he said: "If it is negotiations they want, they can abandon all hope, the Government will never give in to terrorist blackmail."

Señor González defended the Spanish security forces' anti-terrorist tactics, now under renewed heavy criticism, as "adequate". But he admitted the police had failed to break up Eta's "Spain commando" and the "important" infrastructure it now evidently has in Madrid. It was a failure shared with the Government, he said.

attacks on Spanish targets.

He told viewers that he had written immediately to M Chirac to thank him.

Only one of the eight injured in the grenade attack was still in hospital yesterday.

The breakup of Señor Manuel Fraga's opposition coalition was confirmed yesterday when his own party, Popular Alliance, indicated it will no longer observe any electoral pacts with its former Christian Democrat partners.

● PARIS: A second presumed member of Eta, Juan Nafarrete Arreche, has been "urgently" expelled from France to Spain (Susan MacDonald writes).

His expulsion was carried out under the same conditions as that of another presumed Eta member, José Varona Lopez, last Friday night. Both men are Spanish nationals and do not hold political refugee status in France, despite having lived in the French Basque country.

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<p>To Minolta (UK) Ltd., 1-3 Tamers Drive, Blacklands North, Milton Keynes MK14 5BL.</p> <p>You've offered Evidence, Features and Benefits. But I'll be the judge. Please send me the Minolta 7000 brochure.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Postcode _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">T 23/7</p>		

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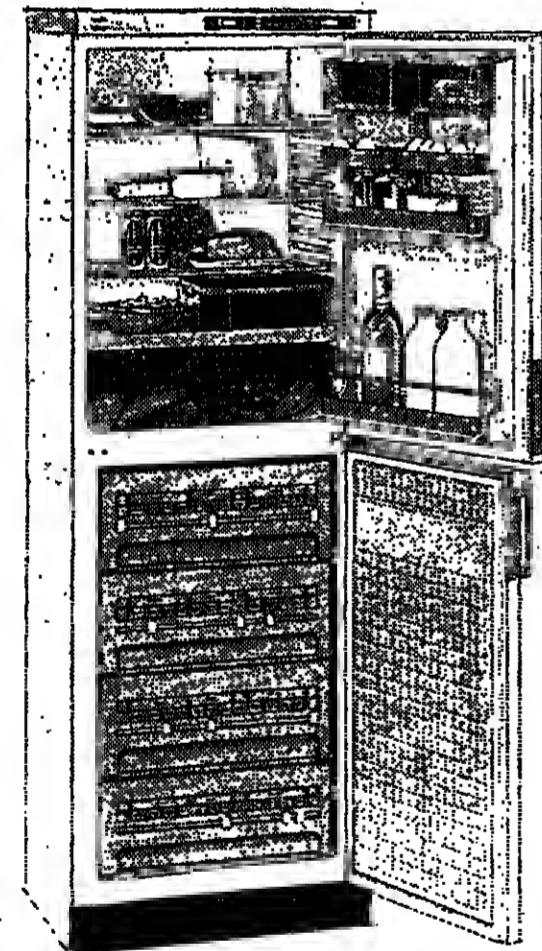
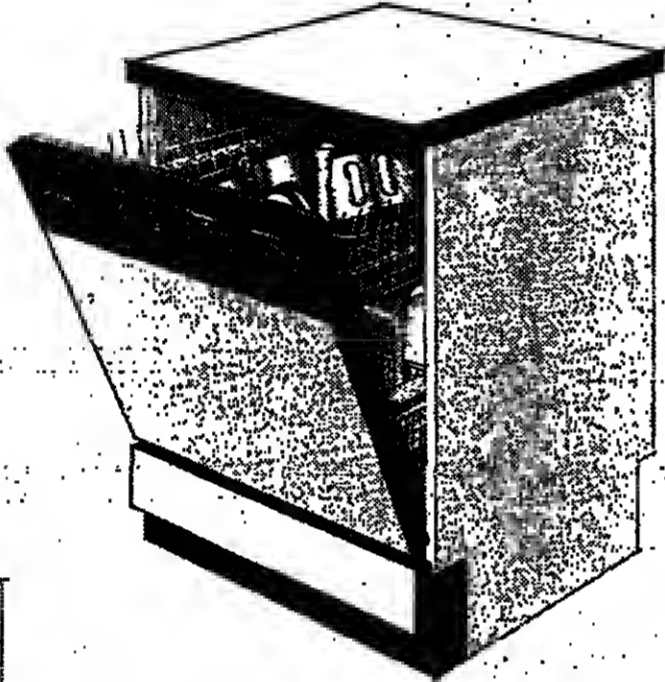
Left: Fridge/Freezer SDI-25
Frost-free. Three-door 'Ice 'n' Water' refrigerator. 15.99 cu. ft. Two freezer compartments, 8.74 cu. ft. Meat/fruit drawers. Adjustable glass shelving. On rollers. Requires plumbing. White, Almond or Autumn Gold. 172x91x78 cm. Made in USA.
Harrods Usual Price £2,195 Sale Price £1,645

Fridge/Freezer TR 18, not shown
Frost-free. Fridge 13.28 cu. ft. Freezer 4.5 cu. ft. Reversible meat drawer. Two crisper drawers, one humidity-controlled. Adjustable shelving. Can be built-in. White, Almond or Autumn Gold. 166x77x81 cm. Made in USA.
Harrods Usual Price £1,035 Sale Price £775

Examples from MIELE

Right: Automatic Dishwasher G 522
Four programmes. Water softener fitted. Decor frame fitted. Salt and rinse aid indicators. Stainless steel interior. Adjustable feet for uneven floors. Dark Brown facia. 85x60x60 cm. Made in West Germany.
Harrods Usual Price £536 Sale Price £450

Washing Machine W 754S, not shown
11lb. load. 1100rpm spin speed. Cold fill. Half-load and economy programmes. Variable temperatures, cold to 95°C. Dark Brown facia. 85x60x60 cm. Made in West Germany.
Harrods Usual Price £630 Sale Price £509

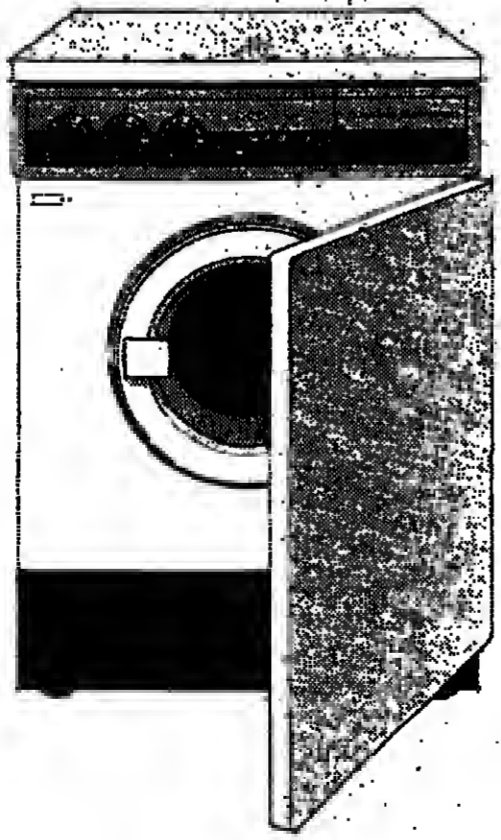


Examples from AEG

Right: Turbo Washer Dryer 2060
Quick-drying. 11lb. washing load. 5.5lb. drying. 1100/800rpm spin speed. Half-load and economy programmes. Cold fill. Brown facia. 85x60x60 cm. Made in West Germany.
Harrods Usual Price £727 Sale Price £599

Dishwasher G25, not shown
Twelve place settings. Six programmes, with push-button control. Three temperatures. Salt and rinse and refill indicators. Anti-flood system. Stainless steel interior. Brown facia. 85x60x60 cm. Made in West Germany.
Harrods Usual Price £483 Sale Price £399

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Briton jailed on drug charge

Colombo - A British national was sentenced to 6½ years' rigorous imprisonment yesterday in the Negombo Magistrates' Court in Sri Lanka for possessing 4lb of hashish (Vijitha Yapa writes).

Michael Taylor, aged 39, was arrested at the Colombo international airport, Katunayake, on April 4 when he was about to board an aircraft for Europe.

This is the toughest sentence passed by a Sri Lankan court on a foreigner for possessing drugs.

Glen Andrew Scott, aged 22, an Australian, was sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment by the Negombo magistrate for possessing 7oz of heroin.

Sterilization mother jailed

Columbia, South Carolina (UPI) - A woman charged with murder in the starvation death of her three-month-old son was allowed to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter after undergoing sterilization in return for the reduced charge.

Debra Williams, aged 26, was jailed for the maximum 30 years for voluntary manslaughter. Her husband, James Williams, is awaiting trial on the murder charge.

More talks on Hong Kong

London - Four days of talks began yesterday to review progress in implementing the Anglo-Chinese Declaration on the future of Hong Kong, which regulates the transition of Hong Kong from British to Chinese sovereignty after 1997 (Rodney Cowtuo writes).

It is the fourth series of meetings of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, which rotates its meetings between Peking, Hong Kong and London.

Titanic plaque

Woods Hole, Massachusetts (Reuter) - A small bronze plaque honouring the 1,513 people who perished when the Titanic sank 74 years ago, was placed yesterday on the ship's stern.

Chess winner

Bienne, Switzerland (AP) - Viktor Korchmoy, the former Soviet grandmaster now playing for Switzerland, bounced back from an opening loss to defeat Swiss teammate Werner Hug in the second round of the Bienne International Chess Tournament.

Bus tragedy

Zutphen, Netherlands (Reuter) - Two handicapped people were killed together with a female helper and the female driver of a minibus which collided with a train on a level crossing near this eastern Dutch town yesterday.

Atom chief

The Kremlin has named Mr Nikolai Lukonin (above) head of the newly-created Soviet Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering. He has for the past three years been in charge of a giant nuclear plant in Lithuania which will soon have two Chernobyl-type reactors in operation.

Harriman ill

New York (AP) - Mr W Averell Harriman, aged 94, a statesman who played a major role in forming US foreign policy under five presidents and worked closely with Sir Winston Churchill during the Second World War, is seriously ill, the New York Daily News reported yesterday.

Dearer bread

Belgrade (Reuter) - The Yugoslav Government has allowed a 50 per cent rise in the price of bread effective immediately, the official news agency Tanjug said.

Colonel dies

Manila (Reuter) - Colonel Tirso Gador, who played a part in the revolt that toppled President Ferdinand Marcos, was drowned when his parachute was blown into Manila Bay after he jumped from an Air Force helicopter.

Cold comfort

Tehran (Reuter) - Iran has sent equipment to provide 40 tonnes of ice daily for its troops sweltering in 122°F heat on Iraq's southern Faw peninsula. Tehran Radio reported.

Americans tight-lipped after first meeting with Russians on Salt treaty

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Complying with directives that the occasion should not serve as a "propaganda platform", American officials were tight-lipped regarding yesterday's inaugural American-Soviet meeting on the 1979 Salt 2 treaty, to which President Reagan says the US no longer intends to be bound.

A US communiqué confined itself to saying that Washington's agreement to convene a special session on the issue "stands in contrast to the position taken by the Soviet Union in 1983 when the US asked for a special session to discuss compliance matters relating to the Salt 2 Treaty.

Both yesterday morning and again in the afternoon, the US delegation, led by General Richard Ellis, a former chief of the country's strategic air command, met the Soviet team, headed by General Vladimir Medvedev, at the US diplomatic mission "to clear the air".

The talks, requested by Moscow, were held within the context of the Standing Consultative Commission - the joint US-Soviet body set up in 1972 to monitor compliance with existing arms control agreements, and, it was then hoped, make suggestions for more.

A concurrent development in the 40-nation United Nations disarmament conference concerns the proposed global network of seismological measuring stations to differentiate between natural underground

disturbances and subterranean nuclear tests.

After prolonged fence-sitting the Soviet Union has now declared itself willing to participate in the international effort directed to this concept, which is entirely compatible with its current endeavour to secure a comprehensive ban on testing.

Mr Richard Butler, the Australian delegate, who visited Moscow last week, is urging the conference to reach consensus on recommending governments to proceed with the required network forthwith.

He pointed out that with 100 national seismic stations already in existence, the essential requirement was to reinforce the communications network for transmission of data, thereby creating a global seismological verification system for the day when prohibition on testing is agreed.

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Genscher plea on missiles

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister (left), and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, signing an agreement on scientific co-operation.

'Can do' conquers Soviet doctors

New York (AP) - The Russians who worked with American doctors treating the Chernobyl victims learned something about the American "Can do" tradition, the US physician Dr Robert Gale said.

Dr Gale said he learnt from having to grapple with the awesome challenge of treating "the largest group ever exposed to a reactor accident". It was a "battlefield situation", in which doctors had to decide quickly who could be saved.

But Soviet and American doctors had worked well together, and there was little language problem.

He had told Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, that the accident and the tremendous medical response it demanded "should put to rest any notion that we could respond effectively to a nuclear accident of a greater magnitude".

New Jersey racecourse scents trouble

The bottom has fallen out of the domestic mushroom market and dropped the race track managers of New Jersey into a heap of trouble.

The problem is one of how to dispose of the daily supplies of horse manure produced inexorably by the thousands of horses permanently stabled at the racecourses.

Until recently the dung was a supply of ready cash. They sold it to the mushroom growers who came willingly with lorries to cart the stuff away to their farms in the limestone caverns of neighbouring Pennsylvania. Five years ago Meadowlands Race track alone annually made about \$250,000 (£167,000) from the cash sale.

But then cheaper mushrooms began to be imported from China and Taiwan and local growers began to go bankrupt and close their operations.

Now the racecourse owners are having to pay the few remaining growers to take the manure away. Last year it cost Meadowlands \$150,000 for the trouble.

Over the next 12 months the track's financial expert predicts the cost will double as the industry continues to decline.

A visit to Meadowlands gives some idea of the scale of the problem. The stadium currently houses 1,700 horses. Steaming dung is collected daily by stable boys and gathered into piles 10 or 12ft high stired judiciously along the back stretch of the course.

But though it may be the ideal medium for the cultivation of mushrooms it is not much use for anything else. The digestive tracts of cows

Horses' efforts go to waste

kill weed seeds in whatever fodder they eat, but the less ruminant systems of horses do not. To turn horse dung into a viable soil conditioner it needs to be composted for at least a year.

The difficulty is that Meadowlands alone produces five lorryloads of manure every week. The size of the 12 month compost heap Meadowlands would require does not bear thinking about.

The answer to the problem may lie in Saratoga. In recent years the Saratoga Raceway in New York State has been operating a conversion plant which turns manure into fertilizer.

Now Meadowlands has decided to spend \$20,000 on a marketing feasibility study for

Two ver

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1009

ACROSS
1 Merry (6)
4 Rebellious (6)
7 Honey wine (4)
8 Multiple (8)
9 Warship officers quarters (8)
13 Electric fish (3)
16 Wind measure (8,5)
17 Curve (3)
19 Hold back (8)
24 Malted wine (8)
25 Sicilian volcano (4)
26 Shiny (6)
27 Frank (6)

DOWN
1 Doorframe vertical (4)
2 Excursion coach (9)
3 Object (5)
4 House-house (5)
5 Elevator (4)
6 Divide in two (5)
10 Postpone (5)
11 Fragrant iris (5)
12 Slangy man (5)
13 Thin (9)
14 Welsh emblem (4)
15 Syrian bishop (4)
16 Monarch (5)
20 Happening (5)
21 Pick me up (5)
22 Steam engine sound (4)
23 Difficult (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1008
ACROSS: 1 Bedouin 2 Pay 3 Cudge 4 Tacule 5 Newcomer 6 Loss 7 Circumference 8 Acis 9 Unversed 10 Mundane 22 Yobbo 23 Bore 24 Sausage
DOWN: 2 Endow 3 Aik 4 Butterfingers 5 Pace 6 Tricora 7 Ignominy 8 class 9 Eistodfod 10 Ovum 11 Fize 12 Retinue 13 Saboteur 14 Hall 22 Yen

مكثان التهنين

Royal Wedding

Love on a wing and a smile

The marriage of Prince Andrew to Sarah Ferguson today seals the partnership between two young people whose effervescent joy has touched millions of hearts

Beneath her tumbling copper mane, Sarah Ferguson has a pair of bright blue-grey eyes which she employs to great effect. When, in the company of a visitor, Prince Andrew's conversation charges off down the byways of naval life and into the dense thickets of powered flight, she has a habit of staring directly at the third party, slipping behind a puckish grin and rolling her hazel eyeballs to the ceiling like the reels of a one-armed bandit.

Her face is open, lively, knowing, mischievous and always pointed at the world around her, unlike that of the Princess of Wales who, on public view during her engagement, often appeared transfixed by the toes of her boots.

It is a face full of self-assurance, confident without being overweening and rarely without a laugh lurking between the ears. When she and her partner laugh in unison, which they do a lot, the watching world is near-blinded by shimmering banks of perfect teeth, like a pair of Steiway coocert grands with their keyboards open.

Her former headmistress at the exclusive and expensive Hurst Lodge girls' boarding school at Summingdale, Mrs Celia Merrick, has recalled: "If there was any fun Sarah would be in the midst of it. From being a very small girl she always had charm, humour and a sense of fun. She had a very sunny disposition, enormously cheerful, bubbly and fun-loving. But she was not a superficial girl and had a stubborn streak. I should think she will suit the young prince very well; she is a strong, enough character to keep him in order."

Sarah's self-confidence and openness are qualities learned from an early age and not without a measure of pain in her fourteenth year when her mother departed for Argentina. Her family background is landed gentry rather than aristocracy, with generations of distinguished service in the Cavalry; her great-grandfather died on active service with the Royal Horse Guards in 1896, taming the Ashanti on the Gold Coast and every generation since, down to her father, has held a commission in the Life Guards.

It is a family of old moose, but not of much. Several generations ago the Fergusons were landowners, in a mildly grand sort of way, at Polebrook Hall in Northamptonshire, but today the family spread is 876 prime arabic acres of Hampshire.

From her earliest years Sarah travelled on her father's coat tails through the upper reaches of English social life, via his profes-

sional career of high-flying military ceremonial and his abiding passion for polo. It was a training that gave her the first-division social graces and the self-assurance to regard her purpose as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

She was never so academic but few of her background are. She managed six O-levels — in art, English language, English literature, spoken English, French and biology — but her principal school achievement, apart from mere survival against a disintegrating family background, oow happily rebuilt, was to be made joint head girl with the daughter of the television comedian Ted Rogers. She dived naked at midnight into the swimming pool on her last day at school but then so did everyone at Hurst Lodge.

Her assessment card at the South Kensington secretarial school she subsequently attended was prescient in its judgement: "Bright, bouocoy redhead. A bit slapdash, but has initiative and personality which she will well use to her advantage when she gets older, and accepts responsibility happily."

Soon after her engagement was made public, she took a bit-part in the Queen's 60th birthday celebrations, accepting daffodils from schoolchildren in the Buckingham Palace forecourt. The ease with which she slipped into the part was immediately apparent as was the unruffled cool with which she handled the press gang that hounded her in the days before Fleet Street's suspicions were confirmed.

Prince Andrew, by comparison, is something of an academic, having gained three A-levels in addition to his six O-levels at Gordonstoun, but there was never any possibility that he would go on to university like his brothers. From the age of 13 Andrew knew that he was more of a hairy-chested than a swot and he also knew that his future lay in flying helicopters. The RAF he dismissed as too mundane, the Army as too politically risky — much of their chopper flying is in South Armagh — so it had to be the Navy.

Andrew is nothing if not his father's son; he is even named after the Duke of Edinburgh's father, Prince Andrew of Greece. He is a world removed from the thoughtful and introverted Charles and exudes a confidence which, until the Falklands war and the wise counsel of his mother filed down the sharper corners, had a tendency to manifest itself



A shared life: engrossed in the fun and freedom of each other's company, a pleasure that underlies even the grandest wedding

as arrogance and the kind of behaviour which some can get away with as high spirits and for which others suffer in the name of boorishness.

The Falklands campaign was the beginning of the making of Andrew and it changed him markedly. Shipmates relate that on one occasion in those slightly unreal days when the task force was sailing south, Andrew burst into a crowded cafeteria close to the flight deck of HMS Invincible, whipped out his service revolver and pointed it at the assembled and astonished company. By the time the trigger had made its harmless click the entire company had hit the deck.

Less than a month later he was a considerably sobered man. "I was airborne when the Atlantic Conveyor was hit. We saw the odd 4.5 inch shell come pretty close to us and I saw Invincible fire her missiles. Normally I would say it looked very spectacular but from where I was it was very frightening. I think the moment really

sticks in my mind. It was horrific and terrible and something I will never forget. It was probably my most frightening moment of the war."

He later learned an even more chilling fact: three times during the heat of battle, the British radar-guided Sea Wolf missile batteries had looked on to his helicopter, mistaking it for Argentinean hardware. Who could blame him, when the war was over, for seeking rest and relaxation on a Caribbean isle with a woman who had once appeared, without her clothes, in a distinctly erotic film?

Yet for all his derring-do, his parade of well-publicized amorous adventures, and his obvious enjoyment of the close camaraderie of the naval warroom, there appears always to have been a streak of isolation, even loneliness to him. His only real home has been a grand but faintly impersonal suite of rooms in Buckingham

Palace and his published collection of photographs, which he describes as autobiographical, have the feeling of a man peeping through the Palace curtains in curiosity and looting at a wider world outside.

So what future can be divined for this outwardly fun-loving pair, forever sentenced to a life in the public eye?

The new Princess Andrew will begin married life as a service wife and will become well-acquainted with the inside of married quarters, as did Princess Anne during her first wedded years when Captain Phillips was still instructing at Sandhurst. After the honeymoon Prince Andrew goes on a training course at Yeovilton, then on to an instructor's posting at Portland naval helicopter base in Dorset.

He signed on for twelve years and will undoubtedly remain in the service at least until 1992. Beyond that, his career is less certain; by that time he would be in line for quite senior promotion

and there is a potential source of embarrassment in the Queen's son competing for high rank with other highly-qualified career officers.

Sarah will do her best to continue working, at least for the time being, against the pressures on her to give it up. For what else is a naval officer's wife to do all day if she is not to surrender totally to the corrosive effects of the service ladies' social round?

Then a home must be found for them. Although there are always the quarters at Buckingham Palace, it never did any young bride much good to start married life under the roof of her in-laws. Some properties have been looked at in the area already popular with the family and which local estate agents now describe as the "Royal South Cotswolds". It will be the Queen's wedding present to them.

They will not be usually horsey. Sarah is competent in the saddle but has always pulled up short of obsession. Andrew has no great

love of the beasts; they used to give him dreadful hay fever. Their main function in life is to be themselves, royals acting out a public life which will move to a much higher profile when Prince Andrew leaves the Navy. Andrew, at present, has a modest portfolio of only 10 patronages, from the British Schools Exploring Society through the Badminton Association of England and a school for problem children in Co. Durham to a police convalescent home in Harrogate.

Sarah will soon have her own clutch and she will be a credit to "the firm" in the way that she conducts her role of a Royal Presence. She is warm, open, caring, natural and more or less born a commoner, so that her audience will readily relate to her.

Once upon a time Prince Andrew, as a son of the monarch, would have been despatched as Governor-General of one of the larger segments of the White Commonwealth. That is no longer the case. Australians, for example, more or less insist that the monarch's representative in Canberra is one of them.

They will be found another role on the royal stage, assuming that Andrew leaves the Navy at the end of his 12-year commission, the Queen will be 66 and no doubt glad of her family to take from her some of the burden of public appearances. They will need to earn a living, because not only is a £50,000 Civil List allowance modest to maintain a regal lifestyle, it is supposed to be used only for official business.

They will have an estate in the country and will have to work like any other commercial farmer to make it pay. Sarah has already the look of a woman who could mature into a formidable Lady of the Shires. They will have children. And Andrew will miss naval life, just as his father did when official duties forced him to give it up.

When he starts reminiscing about his days on Invincible, his wife's eyes will roll up again, his wistful grin will return and she will probably order him to go off and play with his boats in the bath.

Alan Hamilton

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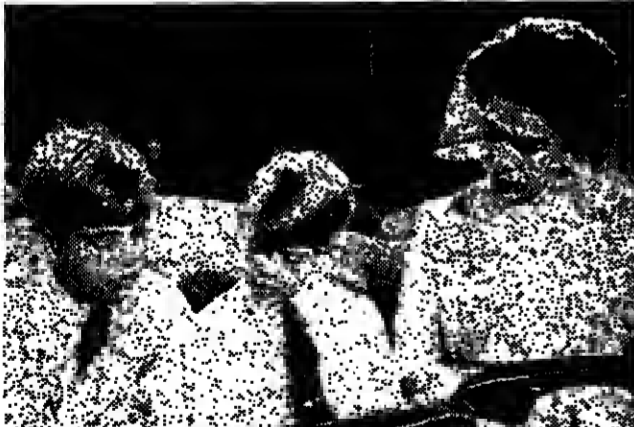
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Two very separate lives, glimpsed on the abbey road



The chubbier of the two, then and now. The Princes Andrew and Edward enjoyed a particularly close relationship with their mother, by then released from the burden of her father's last illness and the difficult early years of her reign



The then Mrs Susan Ferguson with her daughters in the Sixties. Not even in her wildest childhood dreams could the sparkling-eyed Sarah, aged nine, left, with her sister Jane, have dreamt that one day she would marry a prince



An eight-year old precocious cut-Scout is demonstrating that he never learned the meaning of the word "shy"



A nine-year old country girl learning the skills of the saddle, but pulling up short of equestrian obsession



Flowering into womanhood, a blooming Sarah displays an easy pose at her sister's wedding ten years ago



A 13-year-old prince at Badminton Horse Trials reflecting, perhaps, that animals give him hay fever



Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The pose is as floppy as the hat, the face open, carefree, fresh and young. Sarah Ferguson at the age of 26 is worldly, self-assured, relaxed and looks as if she knows that something pretty terrific is about to happen to her. The face, as always, reflects not only her own warmth but also that of the sun



The making of the man: a dashing prince in his helicopter pilot's gear, a 23-year old survivor of the Falklands

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Royal Wedding

Lining up for a grand pageant

Britain's great State occasions have one thing in common: the presence of horses and carriages. Today's represents both grand tradition and modern efficiency, pomp and precision manifested in immaculate splendour. Alan Hamilton reports

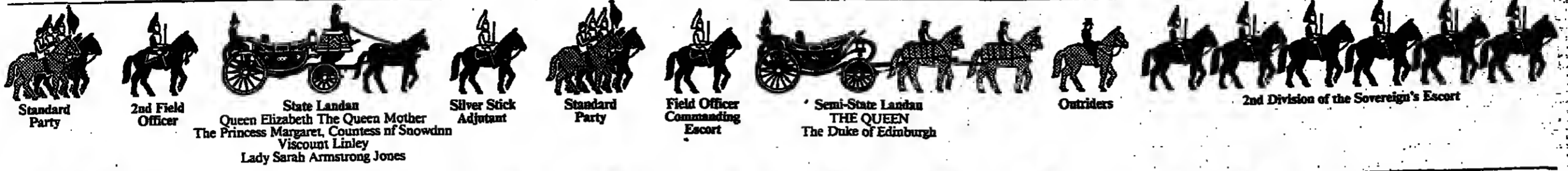


Illustration by Geoffrey Sims

Rise 'n' shine for a day in the saddle

Reveille was early today at Hyde Park Barracks. Troopers laid on elbow grease, spit and polish that would bring a sparkle to the eye of any senior NCO. The day of the horse soldier was under way.

Five o'clock in the morning, and the slumbering peace of Hyde Park Barracks is broken only by the fiftieth snore of a Life Guards trooper, the pawing of hoof on concrete and the occasional stultent hrrmmph from the stalls where 200 impeccably groomed black horses await the day with blank patience.

At 5.30 the fleeting dreams of man and beast are shattered by a trumpet of the Blues and Royals band piercing the capital's early air. Reveille is half an hour early: there is a big job on today.

Troopers tumble from their beds in their well-appointed tower-block quarters and stumble down in the stables for the day's first brew-up

before the chore of mucking out. A whisper of soothing words in the ears of their mounts establishes which horses are calm, which excitable. Those not in the right frame of mind are led out, clad only in blanket and surcingle, for half an hour of brisk exercise in the riding school: nothing like physical exertion to calm the nerves.

By 6.45 the troopers, oow fully breakfasted, are back in the stables to begin the serious task of grooming, on which for a day like today they will spend a good hour and a half. No human guest at today's wedding will be better turned out than the horses of the Household Cavalry.

There are to be 190 horses for today's spectacle, slightly fewer than the recent record of 207 put on parade for the Queen Mother's eightieth birthday. The Cavalry buy them, mainly from Ireland, at between three and four years of age, and they stay in service as long as they are useful. The oldest inhabitant of the stables at the Cavalry's Hyde Park barracks is the venerable 25-



Changing times, changing roles: Prince Andrew and Prince Charles en route to the latter's wedding five years ago

year-old Ringlet, but his trotting days are more or less over and he will not be called for today's parade.

Horses' names indicate the year they completed training and joined a troop; this year's graduates all begin with 'L' - Legend, Lucinda, Leopardstown. The minimum height requirement for a black horse to carry a trooper is 16 hands; greys are admitted at 15.2 hands, but they are restricted to the lighter duty of carrying

the musicians on parade duty. Grooming is conducted with a thoroughness that borders on obsession and on part of the equine body escapes attention. Endless brushing brings the coat to a mirror sheen that equals the blacking on grandmother's kitchen range; powdered chalk on the white patches rivals the most hyperbolic detergent commercial. Hooves are picked and polished, eyes and noses wiped with the care of mother to child. The night before, tails were wrapped in wet bandages: this morning they are taken off so that the hairs can be pulled to lie neatly between the buttocks.

Troopers have been blacking, whitening and brassing their own kit since the day before and buffing up the leather harness. The leather is first rubbed smooth with the edge of the polish tin lid, the Cherry Blossom is applied with the thumb and the elbow grease makes it shine like lacquer.

By 8.15, it's boots and saddles. The horses are saddled while the troopers retire to change, helping each other into their complex uniforms, which include steel cuirasses (the Household Cavalry is alone in the British Army to

still wearing armour). It is far from unknown for a trooper to get part of his kit on the wrong way round, and a man poorly turned out at inspection may well find himself on a charge.

Nine o'clock, and the long process of mounting begins. Once up, a trooper stays there, and he may be in the saddle for more than an hour before the troop moves out of barracks.

By this time, Lieutenant-Colonel Seymour Gilbert-Denham, the officer commanding the Sovereign's escort (a post once held by the bride's father), or his adjutant, Captain Rupert Lendrum, will have been on the telephone to the London Weather Centre and to the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. The threat of serious rain requires a decision on wet weather order; the Cavalry will be given the order "to cloak" and the Mews will roll out the covered coaches instead of the open landaus.

Then Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert-Denham inspects his charges accompanied by his adjutant and riding master while grooms with brushes and polish stand by to attend to his dissatisfactions. When

his approval has been won, the Cavalry moves off through city streets, now busy with workaday traffic, on the 20-mile ride to Buckingham Palace.

Meanwhile, across London, a group of senior officers under the direction of Major-General Christopher Ayr, commanding the Household Division and London District, have been at work since early July in a suite of offices directly behind the mounted sentries at the Whitehall entrance to Horse Guards. Their task has been to ensure clockwork precision in the day's events, both in the mounted procession and in the foot soldiers who line the route.

It is a job they know backwards, having performed it with only minor variations, for every State opening of Parliament and every State visit, including that of the President of West Germany three weeks ago.

Lining the route is an equally exact science. Palace to Westminster is a well-trodden ceremonial path, and the Army's masters of ceremony are familiar with every inch of it.

To help them, metal markers, each with its own letter, are set in the roadway of the

Mall and Whitehall. One or two have inadvertently disappeared under careless road resurfacing, but the easiest to spot is the metal stud marked 'S', two feet out from the kerb opposite the left-hand sentry box at Horse Guards.

Where one route-lining detachment ends and the next begins depends on how many men each regiment can provide. Thus, for example, the Cheshire Regiment may receive the order to commence lining 62 paces west of Point S.

The traditional route has two variations. When the Queen opens Parliament, she cuts off the Trafalgar Square corner and emerges through Horse Guards Arch; the Arch is the ancient entrance to Whitehall Palace, and the Sovereign on her way to open her Parliament must be seen to be emerging from her official residence. State visits negotiate Admiralty Arch; so, too, will Prince Andrew as a nod to his own profession.

There is a strict lining hierarchy. In the Mall nearest the Palace it is always the Sovereign's own personal guard, the Foot Guards. Which Guards depends on which are available: today it will be the Scots and Irish Guards, both of which have battalions currently stationed in the UK.

Thereafter the route is lined by the services in ascending order of seniority. From Admiralty Arch to halfway down Whitehall it is the junior service, the RAF. Then the Army, represented today by the Cheshires, who happen to be stationed at present in the London area. Finally, close to the Abbey, the senior service, the Navy and Royal Marines, ending up nearest the Abbey door with ratings from the ships on which Prince Andrew has served.

There was a full rehearsal last Thursday, in the small hours before London was awake, but still nothing is left to chance. An hour before the

procession begins, the markers for each lining half-company will march to their allotted positions, accompanied by a drill warrant-officer with his pace stick. They like, they say, to get things accurate to within the width of a pair of feet.

The crowds, who have a propensity to cheer anything that passes, even a Westminster Council dustcart, as they wait for the star turns to appear, will have a chance to give throat to Major-General Ayr as he rides the route with two fellow-officers to inspect the lining parties shortly before the real action begins.

They can cheer him again on his return, just before bride and groom pass by en route to the wedding breakfast. And then they're off, to the beat of jangling harness and of military bands spaced along the route. Now it's all a question of getting to the church on time - exactly on time.

Troopers cannot peep at their watches under those vast white gauntlets, and an upwards glance at Big Ben is only a slight help. Foot soldiers will march reliably at 116 paces to the minute, but the walking pace of a horse is not quite so precise. Again, it's all a question of practice and experience. To slow or speed up the cavalcade, the officer in charge of each escort signals with his sword.

If they get it right, as they almost always do, Queen, bride and groom will each be delivered in their separate processions to the Abbey's west door to the minute, as prescribed in the carefully-laid plans. If they don't, the crowds will be too enthralled by the polished rumps of Lucinda, Leopardstown and the rest to notice, but Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert-Denham will have a few choice words to say back at barracks. And Ringlet will be quite relieved that he has the day off.

THE RETURN PROCESSION (shown without escorts)



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Nakasone uses election triumph to strengthen control as party leader

From a Correspondent Tokyo

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese leader, reaped the rewards of election success yesterday by easily retaining his post as Prime Minister and locking into place a new Party and Cabinet team which should assure him an extension of his term.

Mr Nakasone, who led his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to its biggest general election victory on July 6, smiled broadly as Japan's parliament overwhelmingly voted him back as its leader.

The Prime Minister then announced his new Cabinet.

As expected, Mr Nakasone placed one of his most vocal economic policy critics, Mr Kiuchi Miyazawa, aged 66, into the key post of Finance Minister.

Mr Miyazawa believes Japan should do more to reflate its economy to help reduce its exports.

In one move, Mr Nakasone thereby removed one of his three main LDP rivals for the leadership from the immediate succession and put Mr Miyazawa into a position where he will have to justify his pre-election criticisms of the Japanese economy.

It is also no coincidence that with Mr Miyazawa holding the purse strings, Mr Nak-

Cabinet list

Japan's new Cabinet: Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Vice-Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, Justice Kaname Endo, Foreign Affairs Tadashi Kuranari, Finance Kiuchi Miyazawa, Education Masayuki Fujio, Health and Welfare Juro Saito, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mutsuki Kato, International Trade and Industry Hajime Tamura, Transport Ryutaro Hashimoto, Posts and Telecommunications Shunjiro Karasawa, Labour Takashi Hirai, Construction Kosei Ameno, Home Affairs Nobuyuki Hanashi, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda.

Directors General of government agencies: Management and Coordination Kazuo Tamaki, Defence Yuko Kurihara, Economic Planning Teisuo Kondo, Science and Technology Yuzuro Mitsubayashi, Environment Toshiyuki Inamura, National Land Tamiyuki Watanuki.

Mr Nakasone may be able to accede to overseas pressure to stimulate Japan's domestic growth, without being seen himself to renege on his own commitment to do the opposite and tackle the nation's huge debt with a tight fiscal policy.

The surprise post in the new Cabinet was Mr Tadashi Kuranari, aged 67, virtually completely unknown outside Japan, as Foreign Minister.

Mr Kuranari is one of Mr Nakasone's closest aides and is expected to help the Prime Minister take an even bigger role in foreign affairs than he has done.

Mr Nakasone's first-name relationship with President Reagan has underlined his aggressive, personal role in foreign policy, which has marked him as unique among Japanese leaders and has done wonders for the Japanese image abroad.

If a leader executes foreign policy as flamboyantly as Mr Nakasone has done, it counts in elections, said Mr Michio Watanabe, the International Trade and Industry Minister, last week.

Such praise did Mr Watanabe no good in the reshuffle. He lost his post to Mr Hajime Tamura, aged 62, who has supported Mr Nakasone's bid to extend his power.

Mr Nakasone's other two rivals for the leadership, Mr Noboru Takeshita, the former Finance Minister, and Mr Shintaro Abe, the former Foreign Minister, have already resigned from their government posts.

They have taken the number two and three jobs in the LDP, hoping to consolidate leadership of their respective factions to challenge Mr Nakasone later.

Business News, page 21



Mr Nakasone bowing as he acknowledges applause in Parliament after being voted back overwhelmingly as its leader.

Hopes fade for speedy release of journalist

From A Correspondent, Peking

Hopes for the quick release of Mr John Burns, aged 41, a correspondent for the New York Times, began to fade yesterday on the sixth day of his detention by Chinese authorities.

Mr Burns, the Peking bureau chief for the US newspaper, was detained last Thursday on accusations of "entering an area forbidden to foreigners, gathering intelligence information, and espionage".

The accusations apparently stem from his travels through restricted areas of Shaanxi and Shanxi provinces at the beginning of the month.

Under Chinese law he can be held for up to 10 days without cause.

His wife, Miss Jane Scott-Long, was unexpectedly denied permission yesterday to visit him at the detention centre in Peking tomorrow.

Mr A M Rosenthal, the executive editor of the New York Times, met Mr Li Zhanming, the deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's information department, for 35 minutes yesterday. "I told him that if they had wanted to make their point that foreigners should not go into restricted areas, they had made it," he said.

A British diplomat said that under the 1984 Sino-British consular agreement, British officials may not be able to visit Mr Burns again for 30 days.

Pep talk by Zia fuels tensions with India

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

A pep talk this week by General Zia ul-Haq to Pakistani troops in forward areas of the territory disputed with India seems to have fuelled reports of rising tension between India and Pakistan.

One consequence has been the indefinite postponement of the visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister.

General Zia, Pakistan's President and Army chief, has been touring Pakistan's northern areas. On Monday, accompanied by General K M Arif, Vice-Chief of Army Staff and operational commander of the Pakistan Army, he told troops in an unidentified forward area that "God Almighty would reward them for the sacred job of defence they

were performing in a sensitive region.

Pakistan-Indian relations have been deteriorating, with Pakistan alleging that Indian troops occupied strategic positions in the Pakistan part of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir state in 1984 and India claiming that Pakistan has supported Sikh separatists.

Border clashes between troops are reported to have resulted in deaths and injuries in recent months.

Speaking at a public meeting in Gilgit on Sunday, General Zia went beyond the previously stated position on Kashmir. He said Kashmir was an integral part and lifeline of Pakistan.

Mine kills 28 as talks continue in Colombo

From Vijitha Ynna Colombo

A landmine exploded under a bus in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, killing 28 people.

Separatist Tamil guerrillas are believed responsible for the incident in Kuchikadiya, near Vavuniya. Among the dead were seven women and children. Fourteen seriously injured were taken to Anuradapura hospital, 35 miles away.

Most of the victims are from the majority Sinhala community.

In Colombo, despite the continuing violence in the north and east in which both Sinhala and Tamil civilians are dying, talks continued between the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front and President Jayewardene amid optimism that some headway is being made.

Both sides are keeping silent on the nature of the talks but on Monday, the TULF leaders met the Finance Minister, Mr Ronnie de Mel, to examine details of finances for the provincial councils, the proposed unit of devolution.

TULF will meet Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, the leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, tomorrow. Her party opposes the Government's proposals on devolution and said it would boycott the political parties' conference chaired by President Jayewardene today where the details of devolution were being discussed.

The secretary general of TULF, Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, said on Monday that it was tragic that whenever the party in power tried to solve the ethnic problem, the opposition, adopted a chauvinistic line and sought to wean the Sinhala public away from the party in power.

Peking sees benefit in bankruptcy

From David Bonavia Hong Kong

Bankruptcy is good, according to the latest thinking in China. A Peking economic journal has said the collapse of industrial enterprises that cannot make their operations pay

enables the state to "reduce its operational risks".

The bankruptcy of an important state-owned industrial enterprise has recently been reported in Peking media.

Observers here are intrigued by the adoption of the idea of

bankruptcy, specially in view of recent pronouncements on the desirability of joint-stock companies in the mainland's industry.

Conservative planners in China will be dismayed by the trend, which may bring political conflict.

Rebels hit Kabul in heavy raid

Islamabad (AFP) - Muslim rebels fighting to hold their strongholds in Herat and Kandahar have moved into Kabul with protracted and co-ordinated attacks on the Soviet Embassy and other Soviet interests in the capital, Western diplomats said "fiercely" yesterday.

Last week the Mujahedeen mounted a two-hour attack on the Embassy, a residential complex for Soviet diplomats, the KGB offices and the Russian cultural centre, the diplomats said.

They reported a two-hour gun battle near a Soviet army complex at Darul Aman, adding that Kabul residents heard 25 loud explosions in the vicinity.

Small-arms skirmishes were also reported near the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's office, they said, without giving details.

Contradicting a Soviet claim that the resistance in Herat, bordering Iran, was under control, the Western diplomats said heavy fighting continued in the city, with the old town mostly razed.

They said the Mujahedeen still controlled a substantial portion of Herat, at the cost of destruction of much of the town. They added that the heavy bombing had left heavy civilian casualties.

Trouble brewing Down Under Australia turns its blind eye to crisis

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The serious decline of the Australian economy has done little to disturb the comforting belief held by most Australians that they live in one of the world's wealthiest nations.

That is perhaps not surprising when a population of around 16 million boasts more than 25,000 millionaires and when on a breezy day there seems to be as many yachts skimming Sydney Harbour as there are city residents.

But there is a relatively new side to this glossy coin: Australia may still be among the most affluent of nations but its proud egalitarianism is fading. In the hard times ahead the main sufferers are going to be the fastest-growing sector of the population - the poor.

Mr Julian Disney, the president of the Australian Council of Social Service, which represents all welfare agencies, says Australia has become a more unfair and selfish place: a more polarized society where "poverty is as bad as that in Britain or the United States".

The statistics he quotes are eloquent. In the past decade per capita gross domestic product has risen by more than 10 per cent, yet the number of people living below

the poverty line has more than doubled to almost three million, or 17.5 per cent of the population.

More than 800,000 children, one in five of the population under the age of 16, live below the poverty line - a computed income level which, in the case of a family of four, is less than Aus \$267 (about £115) a week.

Ten years ago the poor were mainly pensioners. Now they include the long-term unemployed and single mothers, whose numbers have risen sharply since the Family Law Act simplified divorce.

Not all those below the poverty line are in such dire straits that they are unable to feed or clothe themselves, but the strain on the community is showing. Bodies such as the Salvation Army have reported an unprecedented demand for assistance. In the past year the "Salvos" have had to increase services of emergency accommodation and food parcels by around 18 per cent.

Welfare organizations are watching apprehensively for what will emerge from the Federal Government's surgery on next month's budget, which is expected to hit pensions and family allowances.

Chickens bring Nicaragua's problems home to roost

From John Carlin Managua

With Nicaragua facing its worst food shortages in seven years of Sandinista rule, a recent catastrophe which befell the chicken industry has done little for the Government's waning popularity.

A full 20 per cent, or 180,000, of Nicaragua's best turkey chickens had to be killed earlier this month when they began to attack each other, so desperate had they become for something to eat. The chickens landing on Nicaraguans' plates lately has been astonishingly emaciated and sparrow-like.

The problem, the government now admits, was lack of protein in the chicken-feed. What is less clear is why the problem emerged in the first place, especially as chicken production had been one of the great Sandinista successes, with the number in Nicaragua having doubled since the overthrow of the dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Two explanations have been put forward. One is that the protein, or soya, content of chicken-feed has to be imported, something impossible to do given Nicaragua's chronic shortage of foreign currency.

The other, according to a report on the official Voice of Nicaragua radio station, is that the ministry responsible failed to realize in time that it had a vast consignment of soya-based chicken feed lying in a warehouse in the Pacific port of Corinto.

Both explanations - and the truth probably lies somewhere in the middle - identify key weaknesses in an economy increasingly under threat from the Contra guerrillas, support for whom is growing in Washington.

Western diplomats say that had management and a collapse in export income encouraged that school of thought subscribed to by the White House, which believes that Nicaragua's three million people, fed up with economic deprivation, will sooner or later rise up behind the Contras and overthrow the left-wing Sandinistas.

The Government does not deny the problem. "We are experiencing the worst moments since the triumph of the Sandinista revolution, a crisis so profound that even supplying food is difficult," Senator Sergio Ramirez, the Vice-President, said last month.

Not only chicken but also such staples as beans, bread and rice are becoming scarce. Nicaragua was self-sufficient in rice last year. Now rice is having to be imported from the Soviet Union.

But Nicaraguans are not starving. Nicaragua is a tropical, naturally beautiful country. As a senior diplomat wryly remarked this week, "things are not at all bad if you compare them, say, to Romania in January". Yet food is becoming a political problem.

The US-financed Contra war, the Government is always quick to say, is at the heart of

the problem. According to the Economy Ministry, six years of fighting have led to losses to the country of \$1 billion (\$666 million) - a huge amount given export income this year will not exceed \$260 million, a sum which covers only one third of the economy's foreign income needs.

This added to the fact that 40 per cent of the country's resources - and the best of its manpower - are absorbed by the war has meant that the dreams of development and growth so cherished in the heady days after Somoza's fall have had to give way to a policy now of sheer survival.

In the face of a 14-month-old American trade embargo, Nicaragua has had to turn increasingly for help to the Soviet bloc - the source now of 84 per cent of international credits and assistance. As this dependence inevitably grows, the Sandinistas will continue - not without reason - to blame the war.

Yet in the capital Managua and other cities the war has hardly been felt, its being confined mainly to the remote mountains of the north.

All the grumbling, discontented majority of Nicaraguans know for sure is that they are eating less. If 180,000 under-nourished chickens have suddenly to be killed off or, as happened recently, 20,000 tonnes of meat are forgotten in a state-owned warehouse and left to rot, the blame, people will say, lies with the Government.

THE VOLKSWAGEN LT 31, AND HOW IT'S CURING A WASTING DISEASE.

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The Rainbow Warrior affair

Legal muddle fails to delay agents transfer

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr Paul Neazor, the New Zealand Solicitor-General, cleared the way yesterday for the two French agents, jailed for their part in the Rainbow Warrior sabotage, to be deported into French custody in spite of last-minute legal moves by an Auckland lawyer.

Mr Neazor, who is in Britain, signed a stay of proceedings order to thwart attempts by Mr Colin Amery, a lawyer, to have the agents held in New Zealand to face a private prosecution under the Explosives Act.

This followed a day of drama in the Auckland District Court in which Mr Amery won from a District Court judge, Mrs Augusta Wallace, a ruling that the two agents should be produced in court at 10 am today.

Further action against Dominique Prieur and Alain Mafart would have held up their release into French custody, as ordered under the Rainbow Warrior arbitration ruling by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary General.

The agents were to be handed over by July 25 in exchange for an apology from France for the incident, \$7 million (£4.7 million) in compensation and an end to trade sanctions.

But Mr Jim McLay, the Opposition Justice spokesman, and a former attorney general, last night criticized

Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the Attorney General, for leaving the stay of proceedings action to the Solicitor-General.

Mr McLay said this was "buck-passing of the worst order" by Mr Palmer, and who was also in Britain, and could have signed the order just as easily as Mr Neazor.

Mr McLay said the tradition in New Zealand was for the Attorney General to act in cases in which he was answerable to Parliament. The Rainbow Warrior case certainly fell into that category, he said.

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, said on Monday that the Government and the Attorney General would not act to thwart the private prosecution. This was a matter for the Solicitor-General and the courts to decide.



The Australian guided-missile destroyer HMS Hobart and its escort entering Singapore harbour yesterday.

Students cracked top French computer

From Susan MacDonald Paris

Three young computer technology students have come forward and admitted that they were the "pirates" who caused a scandal by breaking in to one of France's biggest and best-protected computer systems.

The break-in came over the Easter weekend at the Ecole Polytechnique, where the huge Cray-One computer, which stores top-secret defence and technological data, is installed.

The three students, who refused to give their names or where they study, came forward after having read about the rumpus.

In an interview with *Le Matin*, they explained that they had meant no harm but had broken into some 15 of France's largest computer systems during the Easter holidays, including that at Renault, just to see how far they could go.

Describing how they had worked through the night when monitoring control would be less, they said that once they obtained the right code "it was magic" — they could do what they wanted.

Once Ecole Polytechnique discovered the break-in, officials' fears of professional espionage led them to clean out the whole system, change the passwords and cut lines of access to the front-end computer, which is where the break-in occurred.

It has been suggested that the students should be hired to improve the protection of sensitive computer systems.

Language riot leads to curfew in Assam

From Kuldip Nayar Delhi

An indefinite curfew has been placed on the town of Karimunj in southern Assam, India, after six people were killed in a language riot on Monday.

Three of the dead were policemen, two lynched by the mob and one killed in shooting. The Army has been called in to oversee the curfew.

The cause of trouble was a government circular making Assamese a compulsory language. Karimunj is a Bengali-speaking town which has been the scene of many protests against the imposition of Assamese on Bengali-speaking population.

Nearly 1,000 people, mostly students, gathered outside the house where Mr Prafulla Mahanta, Assam's Chief Minister, was staying.

The demonstrators, carrying black flags, first shouted slogans against Mr Mahanta and later tried to break through a security cordon to reach the house.

Police used batons and tear gas to disperse the mob but when there was no effect they opened fire, killing three. The demonstrators retaliated by seizing two policemen and killing them on the spot. The third policeman was killed accidentally in the firing.

According to the language formula adopted by the Indian Government, in consultation with the states, every student has to read three languages: their mother tongue, Hindi and English. Linguistic minorities have to read the state language as well.

Ciskei can be sued in English courts

Gar Corporation v Trust Bank of Africa Ltd
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Giddwell
[Judgment given July 22]

Although the Government of the Republic of Ciskei was not recognized as an independent sovereign state by the United Kingdom Government, it was a subordinate body set up by the Republic of South Africa to act on the latter's behalf, and as such had *locus standi* to sue and be sued in English courts.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the defendants, the Trust Bank of Africa Ltd, from a decision of Mr Justice Steyn (*The Times*, June 3, 1986), that the Government of the Republic of Ciskei had no *locus standi* to defend or counterclaim as a third party in proceedings brought by the plaintiffs, the Gar Corporation, against the defendants.

Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, Mr Elio Lauterpacht, QC and Mr John Jarvis for the defendants; Mr Simon Tuckey, QC and Mr Anthony Temple, QC and Mr Ciskei Government; Mr John Laws as *amicus curiae*; Mr Antonio Bueno for the plaintiffs.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the plaintiffs had contracted to build a hospital and two schools in Ciskei. In connection with that contract the plaintiffs had asked the defendants to issue a guarantee in favour of the building owners.

In due course the building owners had demanded payment under the guarantee. The defendants declined to pay on the ground that no demand complying with the conditions of the guarantee had been made before its expiry. In the ensuing litigation all three parties had been before the court.

Mr Justice Steyn had tried as a preliminary point the issue of whether the building owner, calling itself "the Government of the Republic of Ciskei", had any *locus standi* in the courts of England. He had decided it had none.

In 1981 the South African Parliament had enacted the Status of Ciskei Act 1981, which had purported to declare that the territory of Ciskei constituted a sovereign and independent state and was no longer part of the Republic of South Africa. The Act had also purported to empower the legislative assembly of Ciskei to make laws (including a constitution) for Ciskei.

There were no materials on the basis of which it might have been argued that the Government of Ciskei might be viewed as the same entity as the local government which existed immediately prior to the passing of the 1981 Act.

The mere fact that a party to litigation chose to describe itself as "the Government of the Republic of..." did not of itself create any problem of *locus standi*. It might be a trade name, a firm name, a description of what was known in the travel industry as an "affinity group" or simply an example of what his Lordship ventured to call the "Firmico Syndrome" after the classic film *Passport to Pimlico*.

It was not such a case, and what might otherwise be treated as mere pretentiousness could not be so lightly dismissed, since the Republic of Ciskei was undoubtedly recognized by the Republic of South Africa.

In those circumstances steps were taken to inform the Judge of the attitude of the United Kingdom Government towards the Republic of Ciskei.

In *Carl Zeiss Stiftung v Rayner & Keeler Ltd (No 2)* (1967) AC 853 the House of Lords held that the English courts could take cognizance of the legislative authority of the German Democratic Republic because, while they could not treat it as a sovereign state with legislative powers as such, they could and should treat it as having effective legislative powers on the footing that its legislative acts were those of a subordinate body set up by the USSR to act on its behalf.

It was important to bear in mind the change of practice whereby the United Kingdom

Government no longer formally recognized governments.

Mr Justice Steyn had concluded that the courts should not treat the Government of the Republic of Ciskei in the same way as they had treated the Government of the GDR.

In *Carl Zeiss* what was certified was that the USSR was *de jure* entitled to exercise governing authority in the Eastern Zone not that it did so. In the case of Ciskei similarly there was no certificate that the Republic of South Africa in fact exercised governing authority.

What was left to be inferred from the *Carl Zeiss* certificate was, expressed in some certificates issued by the United Kingdom Government, "does not have a formal position as regards the exercise of governing authority".

There was an apparent contrast between the two certificates which came to the attention of the court in the exercise of governing authority. In each case the certificates were conclusive that the GDR or the Ciskei were recognized as independent sovereign states.

In the case of the GDR the certificate pointed expressly to where superior authority was to be found. The question was whether the Ciskei certificate, either alone or with other evidence, pointed to any superior authority of which the courts could take cognizance, as supplying the requisite authority to enable the Government of the Republic of Ciskei to undertake executive, administrative or legislative acts.

In the course of reviewing other evidence the court had to disregard any declarations by Acts of the Republic of South Africa or of the Republic of Ciskei which conflicted with the certificates of the United Kingdom Government.

The court had to disregard section 1(1) of the Status of Ciskei Act 1981, which declared the Republic of Ciskei to be a sovereign and independent state ceasing to be part of the Republic of South Africa and section 1(2) which declared that the Republic of South Africa would cease to exercise any authority over the territory. It had also also disregarded section 1(1) of the Republic of Ciskei Constitution Act 1981.

The court could and had to take cognizance of the remainder of those Acts. Thus section 3(1) of the Status of Ciskei Act 1981 became a straightforward delegation of legislative power which could be revoked in the same way as it had been conferred by legislative Act of the Republic of South Africa.

The constitutional history of the territory of Ciskei was known, and the court could take judicial notice of the fact that the Republic of South Africa was a recognized sovereign state entitled to exercise sovereignty over Ciskei until the passing of the Status of Ciskei Act 1981. If section 1 of that Act was disregarded there were no materials from which to infer that the situation had changed.

The legal status of the Republic of Ciskei and its Government was indistinguishable from that of the GDR at the time of the *Carl Zeiss* case.

The appeal should be allowed and a declaration granted that the Government of the Republic of Ciskei had *locus standi* in the UK courts as being a subordinate body set up by the Republic of South Africa to act on its behalf.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, agreeing, said that the rule that the judiciary and the executive had to speak with one voice presupposed that the judiciary could understand what the executive had said. Where there was a doubt, the judiciary had to resolve it by looking at the question and construing the answer given.

It was not for the judiciary to criticize any obscurity in the expressions of the executive, nor to inquire into their origin or policy. They had to take them as they stood.

Lord Justice Giddwell agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Durant Piesse Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Treasury Solicitor; Victor Mispiton & Co.

Judge's irritation led to injustice

Millington v KSC & Sons
Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Purchas and Sir David Cairns
[Judgment given July 9]

When a trial judge expressed his disapproval of the solicitors' incompetence in failing to secure the attendance of material witnesses at the trial by refusing to grant an adjournment to enable the witnesses to attend, that amounted to an improper exercise of his discretion.

The Court of Appeal so held, ordering a retrial of an action heard by Sir Hugh Park at Plymouth District Registry on January 29, 1986 when he gave judgment for the plaintiff, Colin Michael Millington against the defendants, KSC & Sons.

Mr Jeremy Carey for the defendants; Mr Christopher Goddard for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the parties were able to agree damages before the trial came on and therefore the only issue for the judge was culpability in a collision which took place on a dual carriageway at Hayle Causeway in Cornwall between a lorry belonging to the defendants and a lorry driven by the plaintiff.

The appeal was as to the judge's omission to hear two independent witnesses who were not in attendance. He had refused an application to adjourn so that the witnesses could give independent accounts of their recollections.

Both witnesses could have helped the judge in his considerations. One in particular was driving behind the two lorries and had a first-class view of what led to the collision so that

he could have been of crucial importance on the issue of liability or contributory negligence.

In refusing an adjournment the judge said that the plaintiff had been waiting for his compensation for over two years and now owing to the incompetence of the defendants' solicitors he was being asked to go away again.

It was apparent from those observations that the judge was irritated by the failure of the defendants' solicitors to have their tackle in order that day and moreover he was quite rightly making it plain to them that they had shown lack of regard for the court.

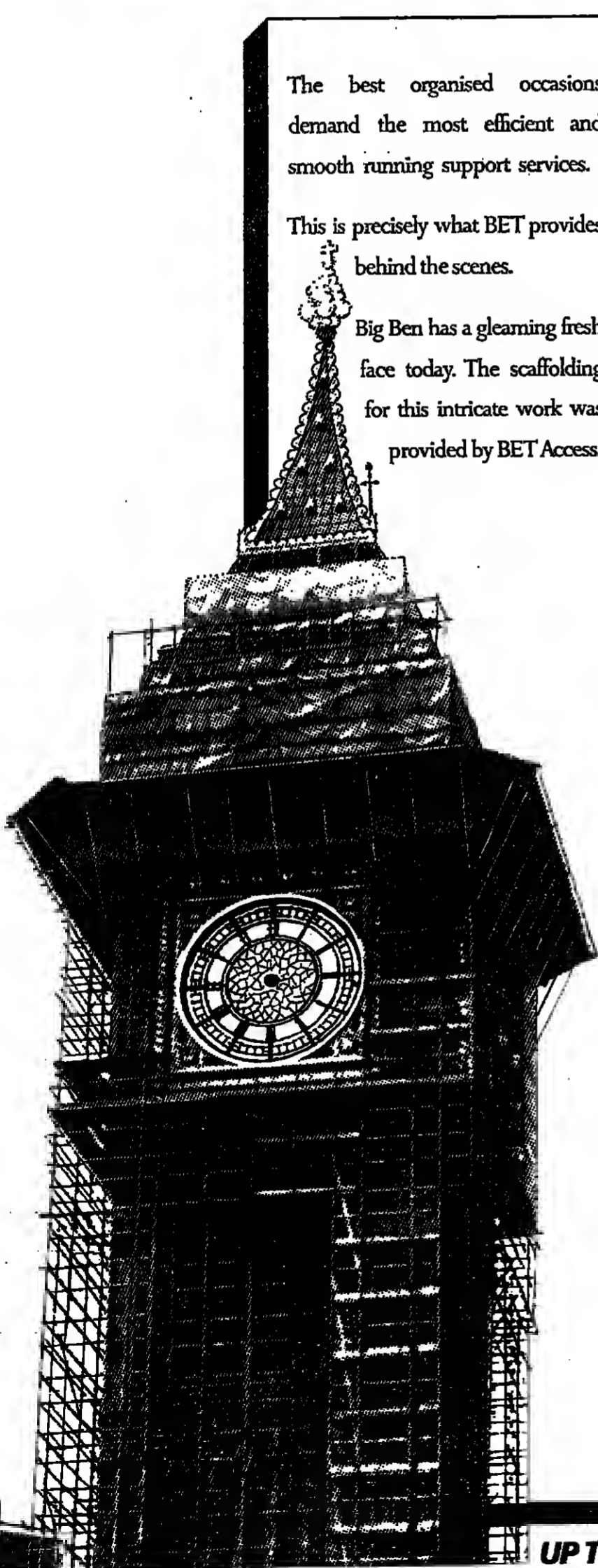
The judge was more concerned with the solicitors' incompetence and the way in which they had treated the court than he was with the possible dangers of going on without the witnesses and therefore he did not in the exercise of his discretion observe the cardinal principle that the interests of justice were served.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that the Court of Appeal was reluctant to interfere with the exercise of the judge's discretion, but the judge had concentrated so much on the conduct of the solicitors that he had failed to put in the balance the crucial importance of the witnesses on the central issue of whether a signal to turn left was given.

The matter had to be remitted for retrial with the proper evidence.

Solicitors: Lawrence Graham Bond Pearce, Plymouth.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Open door for Keyes

The humiliation of black businessman Robert Brown, the White House's choice for ambassador to South Africa, has not dashed President Reagan's hopes of making an anti-apartheid gesture to Pretoria. Another black, I understand, has now emerged as front-runner for the post. He is Alan Keyes, the highest ranking black in the State Department and now in charge of the Bureau of International Organization Affairs. A right-winger, Keyes won his spurs as senior assistant to Jeane Kirkpatrick when she was US ambassador to the United Nations. Usefully, having jumped the hoops of congressional hearings to reach his present job, he would not have to face further inquiries. Brown withdrew his candidacy on Monday amid allegations about past union-busting and his business associations with the fugitive Nigerian, Umaru Dikko.

Action stations

Will the Territorial Army be the next victim of Labour boroughs' displeasure? I pose the question since Newham has just joined the like-minded authorities of Camden, Islington, Lambeth and Hackney in withdrawing representatives from the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Greater London. The traditional function of these reps has been to liaise with the association over such events as Remembrance Day and recruitment fairs. Bernie Cockcroft, the association's assistant secretary, tells me that representatives from other left-wing London councils still attend, and that recruitment continues unabated in traditionally strong TA catchment areas like Newham, regardless of local politics.

Living in hope

Another unfortunate, if unwitting, marriage between politics and the pulpit. In the course of today's service at Westminster Abbey the Archbishop of York will beseech the Lord that through the word and example of the Royal Family, "our nation and Commonwealth may be strengthened in love of righteousness and freedom, and preserved in unity..."

Full spate

Thames Water has been flooded with complaints over ambiguously worded water bills. Many customers thought that payments due on April 1 could be paid by June 30. In fact the June 30 date was a deadline not for payment but for the authority to initiate action against non-payers. As a result, thousands of red final notice warnings went out. Thames assures me the next batch of bills will be reworded.

BARRY FANTONI



'And it's Britain first, second, third, fourth and fifth'

Point made

The electricity people expect big surges in demand today and tonight when television viewers rush to make the tea or turn on lights during breaks in the wedding coverage. At one point the Charles-Diana wedding created a 1,800-megawatt strain on the power stations. The national control room in south London says that although today is not a public holiday, as it was for the 1981 event, plans have been made to cope with a 600-megawatt increase in demand.

Sotto voce

British architects get on your marks. There is to be a competition to design a new ambassadorial residence in Moscow, intended to be a showcase for the best of British architecture. It will replace the present building, which since the 1930s. Competitors will need to know how to make a building bug-proof, a feature notoriously absent from the current embassy complex. "Take my word," a Foreign Office spokesman tells me, "it's something we'll be paying a lot of attention to."

In the balcony

Office windows and balconies overlooking today's royal route are at something of a premium, and none more so than the six balconies of a Denver-based company, Scientific Software-Intercomp Inc, which overlook the entrance to Westminster Abbey. Bob Parish, the company MD, tells me he has been besieged by journalists and photographers baying for a space, but he has sensibly restricted the offer of an eagle eye view to *The Times*, from which I shall bring you news anon.

PHS



Anne: fulfilled

The royal wedding is in one sense a theatrical show, and a very good one too. The monarchy, like Janus, has two faces; sometimes it parades itself as a pageant, at others it dons an occult face of secrecy. Both aspects are essential for its survival and influence.

No doubt the wedding and its coverage will cost a considerable sum of money, but why not? There is something to be said for a splendid monarchy and something for a mean monarchy there is nothing to be said whatsoever. As Bagehot puts it: "It is better to spend a million in dazzling when you wish to dazzle, than three quarters of a million in trying to dazzle and yet not dazzling." Monarchy on the cheap, in Britain at any rate, would turn out to be a spectacularly false economy.

Today's wedding has also a deeper and symbolic significance. We have a family on the throne, not a single person. Every citizen knows what it is like to have a marriage in the family and the hopes and ideals which constellate around the event. In a very real sense then the ceremony in Westminster Abbey represents a

As Prince Andrew marries, a review of changing roles for the royals and coverage of weddings past - plus a celebration from the Poet Laureate

Timely reminder that royal is more than a monarch

Norman St John-Stevens charts changing times

of subjects than the sovereign herself. Prince Philip has fully availed himself of this privilege, and the losses have been outweighed by the gains.

The consort's other contribution has been to supplement the monarchy's stabilizing role by meeting the need for change. Again there has been a parallel between the activities of Prince Albert and Prince Philip. Both have played a major part in freeing the monarchy from outmoded social customs and connexions, which were becoming cumbersome and stifling. It was at Prince Philip's prompting, for example, that the old style socially privileged Buckingham Palace garden parties were done away with and replaced by the present meretricious gatherings dominated by mayors.

The Prince of Wales's task is to prepare himself for eventually assuming the burden of kingship. He has the freedom and opportunity to supplement a formal

education by a wide range of experience, all of which will be helpful in exercising his monarchical duties. Prince Charles has extended the range of the Royal Family in two very different directions - one in the arts world, especially in the spheres of music and architecture, and the other towards concern for social problems, supplementing conventional charitable activities by coming to grips with some of the problems and contradictions lying just beneath the surface of contemporary British society.

That leaves the junior members of the Royal Family, the younger sons and daughter, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew, and Prince Edward. What is expected of them and what can they achieve? In the past they had very little choice: they were condemned to marry princelings or to be immured in the armed services. The situation is different today: within the bounds of current social and moral conventions they are free to do their own thing.

They owe a greater debt than perhaps they realize for this liberation to Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon. It was Prin-

cess Margaret who broke out of the royal magic circle by marrying a commoner. Lord Snowdon made his own contribution to royal liberation by insisting on being free to carry on his own profession as a photographer which it had been widely expected he would have to abandon. This was all part of the social revolution of the Sixties: the critics of that revolution should pause and consider what we would have to go back to if it were to be done away with as they seem to wish.

Princess Anne has been strikingly successful in developing a combined private and public life style of her own. She too married a non-royal of her own choice and her work for the poor and starving children of the world has not only been personally fulfilling for her but has played a major part in arousing the public conscience in Britain to our duties towards the Third World. It is impossible to recognize in the dedicated, intrepid and acclaimed worker for good causes the potentially difficult, frustrated and unpopular princess that at one time she threatened to become.

So if one asks what Prince



Edward: free to follow a career

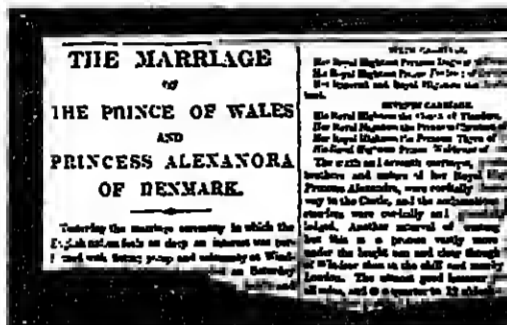
Andrew and his bride will actually do, the answer is quite clear: within reason anything they like. If Prince Andrew wishes to stay in the navy or to leave it and pursue some other profession that is a matter for him. If his wife, like many other young wives, wants to continue at work she is free to do so.

These basic liberties may strike us as obvious enough but they have taken centuries to establish. Nor is there anything incompatible between taking advantage of them and discharging the functions of a public life. It is certainly to be hoped that they will take this course since the demands on the Queen are heavy and growing.

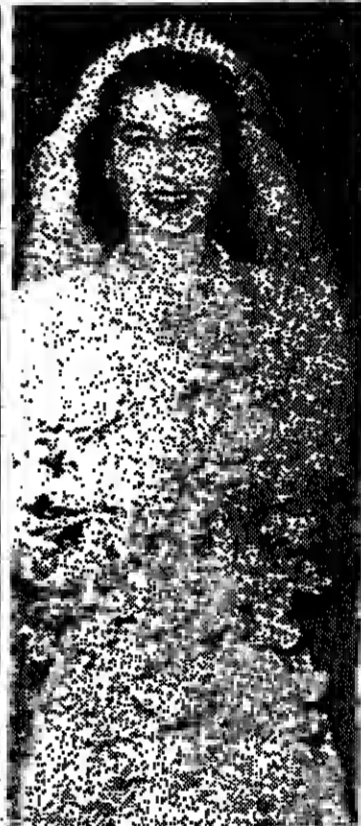
Today there will be celebrations and rejoicings throughout the land and it would be a curmudgeon indeed who would begrudge the young couple their obvious happiness and fulfillment. And when the wedding bells cease to ring out, the good natured and popular pair will enjoy something uncommon enough in our conformist society but rare indeed among royals: the inestimable privilege to be themselves.

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Philip Howard gets out the files to see how we covered previous royal weddings



Coverage contrast: how The Times reported the weddings of the future Edward VII - on an inside page, of course - in 1863 and Princess Anne in 1973. In between, the weddings of the future George V (1893), the future George VI (1923) and the present Queen (1947)



From purple prose to page one colour

Royal weddings excite newspapers to gushers of ink and rainbows of colour writing. They can be anticipated, unlike most news, and Fleet Street believes the mercenary folklore that royal nuptials sell papers. Bagehot was blunt enough to express this view: "Women - one half the human race at least - care fifty times more for a marriage than a ministry."

If you want to categorize like Aristotle, you can divide the coverage of royal weddings by *The Times* over the past two centuries into four stages: the Primitive; the High Victorian Exhaustive; the Impressionist; and the Post-Impressionist. Royal weddings always get more space and more display than they merit in the long eye of history. But we should not underestimate the role they play as cheerful signposts to mark the passage of time.

The first big royal wedding for *The Times* was the ill match between the Prince of Wales, later George IV, and Caroline of Brunswick. We gave it two pages out of our total of four, which was handsome considering that the proprietor was only recently out of jail for libelling the Prince. You might just have guessed that not everything had gone as clockwork from our account. There was mention that the wedding had so long been delayed, from a number of unforeseen accidents. We reported that the Prince got up from his knees too soon, stopping the Archbishop in full flow.

But this Primitive account introduced a number of practices that were to become conventional: interminable tables of orders of processions; reporters along the

route; and minute accounts of what everybody was wearing, down to the last star and furbelow of the bridegroom, whom we described as looking uncommonly well, rather than drunk and looking like Death, according to a less deferential source.

The Times was never a courtly paper in the 19th century. It roused Victoria and Albert to fury by regularly attacking the marriage settlements for their children in its leaders. But it did the decent thing in the description of their weddings. The full pomp of a royal wedding colour piece was introduced for Victoria's own wedding, with the first quintuple-decker headline in our history: admittedly a dullish one:

Celebration of Her Majesty's Marriage with His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha

Three pages out of eight were given to description of the ceremony and frequent processions, with additional particulars from the Court Newsmen. Another page in small type, with no headlines and no leading, ie, at least 10,000 words, was devoted to Prince Albert's pedigree. "It is right that the British public should

be introduced to the family as well as the individual, and we promise them they will have no reason to be ashamed of the acquaintance they thus make."

For the wedding of Victoria's eldest son, we introduced the custom of a pious sermon to the happy couple: "The fair Princess who landed on Saturday morning a stranger to the people, their habits and modes of thought, is now a member of our State, the partner for life of the Heir Apparent to the Throne, and, if the favourable omens under which..." continued on p.94.

For the Duke of York, later George V, we introduced an acanthus and vine-leaf pattern around the wedding pages, and the use of the dramatic present: "On the stroke of the appointed hour there is a commotion in the precincts of the chapel." More influentially, we invented the notion of breaking the story up into separate chapters: St James's Street. The Ceremony in the Chapel Royal, and so on. The royal hacks will be following this example today from the village of Dummer to the crowds in the Mall.

Photography introduced the age of Impressionism in royal wedding coverage. The first half-tone photograph appeared in *The*

Times in 1914, and photography was first deployed for a royal wedding in 1919, for the marriage of Patricia of Connaught. By 1923, for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York, later George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother), royal wedding icons were being established: the formal team photograph, the wave from the coach.

The colour writers were also rediscovering the Old English prosodic device of alliteration to disguise the paucity of news that they were describing at vast length: "Gleam and gloom were chasing each other within the Abbey." The advantage of colour writing is that you can ignore the facts and get on with the purple prose. The disadvantage is that it is difficult to sustain waffle for the length required by a royal wedding. Alliteration was to the fore in our main headline for the Queen's wedding in 1947. Splendour and Simplicity. The inky sermon explained, as it had in the case of Prince Albert a hundred years before, that the bridegroom, although a foreigner, was all right: "They know that he has been brought up among them in the English way, has distinguished himself in many sports, and afterwards in the leadership of men under the enemy's fire."

After the Queen's wedding came television, and the Age of Post-Impressionism. Richard Dimbleby's commentaries brought in relaxed and avuncular description rather than the hieratic prose of the previous two centuries, which sounded like a cross between medieval plain-song and Gibbon on an off day. The press had to find new ways of describing something that everybody interested had seen several times on the box on the previous day.

For Princess Margaret's wedding *The Times*, under a notoriously uncourteous editor, did not even lead with the story, and put the evening departure to the Caribbean rather than the ceremony in the Abbey at the top. The intro was still breathlessly reverential: "They came into the body of the church with their friends and neighbours, as the rubric has it..." By Princess Anne's wedding the Age of Post-Impressionism was so established that *The Times* account, the splash, could begin: "It was a grand morning for a wedding." It could even venture a mild touch of irreverence: "The adjective radiant trembled on even hard-bitten lips." For the Prince of Wales's wedding in 1981, by a technical miracle and at great expense, *The Times* gave the whole of its front page to a colour picture of the bride and groom on the steps of St Paul's.

The coverage of today's royal wedding is based in two centuries of history and practice. We shall do our best to surprise and delight you. But many of the conventions of the inky trade in these matters have precedents almost as old as the monarchy's.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Tickets, please

When they built Westminster Abbey, they had never considered that one day crack police marksmen might want to lie on its roof, thought Detective-Sergeant Whittaker, as he lay on the roof of Westminster Abbey. Bloody hell. I mean, if an assassin appeared on a nearby roof and be, Detective-Sergeant Whittaker, picked up one of his five available guns and blazed away at him, odds were that he, Detective-Sergeant Whittaker, would fall off the roof before he had hit him. Bloody hell.

I mean, if I were a medieval architect, be thought, I would provide lots of places for crack police marksmen. Alright, so they only had cross-bows in those days, but even so, you still need a good place to fire from. Detective-Sergeant Whittaker felt a surge of sympathy for the medieval police, even though he recognized deep down that there hadn't been any police in medieval times. Bloody hell. No police?

He was so preoccupied with these thoughts that he didn't see the man approach across the roof of Westminster Abbey and stand over him until it was too late to get out one of his five guns.

"All right," said the man. "Ave you got a ticket to be bere, mate?"

Marvin J. Gordon of Oklahoma City had spent \$7,890 to be at Westminster Abbey on this day, July 23. He had come all the way from Oklahoma City to London, simply to be a devout but silent bystander. It was the only day he could get to London, as the divorce law firm for which he worked had very strict holiday rules. It was actually easier for people to get a divorce than get time off from the law firm.

He was a devotee of Dylan Thomas's poetry, and he had come all this way to meditate at Poet's Corner. He was a bit puzzled to find that some 3,000 other people seemed to have the same idea.

"All right," said a man. "Ave you got a ticket to be here?"

Howard Kilner, of 38 The Laurels, Fortrose Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex, had never been a particularly religious man. He had talked to God on occasion, but could never remember God talking to him. But suddenly, on day, he had an urge to go to Westminster Abbey and just, well, pray. I mean, sit in an empty pew and send out messages.

"All right," said a man. "Ave you got a ticket to be bere, mate?"

It isn't much fun being a ticket marshal at a royal wedding. It's a bit like being a traffic warden, really. Whether you're legitimate or not, everyone resents you, thought Osric Miemeyer, who had been cross all his life because of his name.

"All right," he said roughly to a group of Icelandic sightseers, though he had no idea that they were Icelandic - he actually thought they were from Leeds or somewhere - "ave you got a ticket to be bere, mate?"

The Icelanders fled. They were replaced by a rough-looking man in Abbey grey. He looked Osric up and down.

"All right," he said. "Ave you got a ticket to be here, mate?" Osric hadn't. It was the one thing he hadn't thought of.

At the door of the Abbey, Prince Andrew paused on the edge of the most wonderful adventure of his life. He was about to get married to the girl he wanted to get married to. Furthermore, he had managed to get time off for his honeymoon, and it was very unlikely that he would be called back for helicopter duty during his break. There was nothing that could go wrong now. He breathed a sigh of relief.

"All right," said a big voice. "Ave you got a ticket, mate?"

A song by the Poet Laureate to celebrate the royal wedding:

Upon this day in Westminster That brings the Prince his Bride Out of the sun there swoops a song That cannot be denied. While every television trembles In the organ blare And their cardiographs' two butterflies Are trying to touch in air. While some weep at the foamy veil That surges her to bliss And some drink to the princely hand That lifts it for the kiss. Before the Country's dried its eyes Or bells begin to ring Cherub in a shaft of light Sweetly starts to sing:

When all the birds of Roxburghshire Danced on the lawns, and all The Salmon of the Tweed cavorted Over The Garden Wall Gold as the Honey Bee A helicopter snatched you up. The pilot it was me. The props, like a roulette wheel, Stopped at felicity Soft as the Thistle's crown But now the Abbey columns Stand like your ancestors, And your I do has struck a root Down through the Abbey floors. Gold as the Honey Bee. Now like a North pole and a South You bear the magnet globe And axis of our spinning land



Where chaos plays its strobe Soft as the Thistle's crown But as the day's Commandment Which can no longer wait Yokes Unicorn and Lion both To haul the coach of state Gold as the Honey Bee While Royal ghosts in silence Bend at the register And gaze into the letters That you have written there Soft as the Thistle's crown Like spitting amplification Of thunder come the cheers And set my meaning humming in Your honeymooning ears Gold as the Honey Bee Dance, dance, as Eve and Adam Kicked their worries off

In Paradise, before they heard God politely cough Soft as the Thistle's crown Then dance on, like a tuning fork That wakes unearthly stars In human hearts, and makes them throb Like noble, old guitars Gold as the Honey Bee And dance, and dance, like Sirius Inseparably two Who twirls in heaven, to show the earth What harmony can do Soft as the Thistle's crown For from this day, which gives you each To each as man and wife That's the dance, and this the song Of a true and happy life Gold, gold as the Honey Bee Soft as a Thistle's crown © Ted Hughes, 1986

HOME



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ON THIS DAY

JULY 23 1793

The struggle between the rival factions in France during the Revolution is evident in this report of the proceedings of the Convention describing the circumstances of the assassination of Jean Paul Marat (1743-1793) on July 13. The Mountain was the party of the Paris mob. The Girondins, of which Gaudet and Brissot were members, was the party of the provinces. From Caen it strove to effect military action against its rival. Charlotte Corday was executed on July 17, 1793.

ASSASSINATION OF MARAT.

Chabot. — "Your Committee had for a considerable time been told, that a deep plot was to accompany the five of July 14th. It was partly executed yesterday evening; and the single point now is the effecting of that Counter-Revolution in Paris on the same day that its inhabitants acquired liberty. In order to accomplish this all the Deputies of the Mountain were to be assassinated for which purpose, the conspirators of Caen kept up a criminal correspondence with their accomplices, your colleagues, who still sit in this Assembly. The day that Charlotte Corday, the woman who struck Marat the mortal blow, arrived in Paris, Duperret received a courier extraordinary from Caen. Who was that courier? That very Corday. Duperret communicated the dispatches to Fouchet.

Fouchet. — "You lie!" Chabot continued. — "A woman has been the first instrument of their crime: this woman who has plunged a knife into Marat's bosom, seems to me to be one of those who, during the time of the Legislative Assembly, spoke to M. Gaudet in favour of the conspirators of Caen. This woman wrote thus to Marat last Friday: 'Your civism must make you desirous to discover conspiracies. I have a very important one to communicate to you, and therefore beg that you will hear me at your house.' She presented herself there yesterday morning; but not seeing him, left another note conceived in these terms: 'Have you received my letter? If you have received it, I rest upon your politeness. It is enough that I am unfortunate to claim your attention.'

"You see, Citizens that his female conspirator rendered justice to the civism of Marat — of Mainz, who died as he lived, the constant friend of the people. Yesterday evening she again went to his house; and Marat, whose heart has ever made so many sacrifices to humanity, ordered his doors to be opened to her. She spoke a great deal to him about the conspirators who have fled to Caen. He answered her, that they would one day lose their heads upon the scaffold. At these words she plunged this knife into his bosom. (Garbon shows the instrument.) Marat had only time to say, I am dying. His servant entered the room, and made a cry; people ran to her assistance. This new Telephone went out with audacity; she was stopped. She might have assassinated herself, but she did not. When we told her that she would lose her head upon the scaffold, she looked at us with a smile of mockery. She reckons upon the success of the traitorous plots of Caen, and doubtless hopes to escape punishment.

"But Citizens, these plots will be developed; these crimes will be punished. The people of Paris are rising; they already make their enemies tremble [applause]; and I dare say, that before the end of this week, all the enemies of the Constitution will be arrested, and that the most guilty will have lost their heads.

"In the pockets of this abominable woman were found 150 livres in silver and 140 in assignats, a letter addressed to Marat, a passport delivered the 8th of April by the Municipality of Caen, her baptismal certificate, a gold watch, etc. on her neck, the sheath of the knife and a writing in the form of an Address to the French people."

Cuthon complained, that the project of so many crimes, discovered by the fight of the conspirators from among the members of the Convention, should be yet unpunished. He moved. First, "That the Revolutionary Tribunal should hasten the judgment against the assassin of Marat; that it should immediately proceed to the trial of Brissot, and prosecute as outlaws those deputies, who, by their flight, had deprived themselves of the protection of the laws."

Coining a cliché

From Mr K. S.J. Berrett Sir, Your correspondent Mr Bailie (July 18) has answered his own question. From now on we shall be able to refer to "the greatest thing since the demise of sliced bread". Yours faithfully, K. S.J. BERRETT, 9 Reynolds Mews, Wiltshire, Chipshire.

From Miss E. Simpson Sir, We say "the greatest thing since the ball point pen". Yours faithfully, E. SIMPSON, 107 Boyds Walk, Dukinfield, Cheshire.

From Mr D. Livesmore Sir, ... since lined paper? Yours faithfully, D. LIVESMORE, 10 Burck Avenue, Mosley, Birmingham.

From Mr Brian Cox Sir, ... the zip fly? Yours faithfully, BRIAN COX, St Christopher's, Severals Road, Bepton Midhurst, W. Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Second-class citizens at the poly?

From the Rector of the Polytechnic of Central London Sir, The resolution of Birkbeck's funding crisis prompts an examination of the funding comparisons for universities and polytechnics published by the Department of Education and Science. This indicates that in 1986/87, in order to support an evening student at Birkbeck College at a basic unit of funding of 0.75 relative to a full-time student, provides £2.295 per student per annum (plus £384 for research).

To provide the same type of degree course for evening students a few hundred yards away in this polytechnic, the 0.2 weighting proposed under the National Advisory Body gives a basic unit of funding of £510 per annum per student (with nothing for research). A polytechnic evening undergraduate takes up to five years to complete an honours degree, as against four years at Birkbeck. Comparing this five-year norm with the four-year norm at Birkbeck a "just treatment" would resource a polytechnic evening student at four-fifths of a Birkbeck student, which gives a weighting of 0.6 of a full-time student. To one nation, why should the evenings for degrees and postgraduate qualifications at this polytechnic be so inadequately funded relative to their near neighbours? Why should these students be treated as the second-

On-the-spot view of sanctions

From the Reverend C. J. Jewell Sir, The recent General Synod of the Church of England has decided that sanctions are the right medicine for South Africa's present situation.

I have been ministering in South Africa for twelve years, entirely among the "Coloured" people — i.e. those of mixed race — in the Durban area, so I am out speaking from any merely slight acquaintance with all the problems involved. South Africa is going through a tough economic recession. There are an estimated two million or more people unemployed (much of which is hidden in the "homelands" and is therefore not counted in official figures). There is little work throughout the country in such industries as building and certain types of heavy engineering. Aid for the unemployed is restricted.

I cannot see any sense or morality in the programmes of disinvestment or of sanctions which are proposed by people usually living between six and ten thousand miles away. These policies will lead only to more misery and poverty for those who are already poor. They will not have the desired effect of bringing peaceful change. I can only think that people who advocate these things desire to bring about, not peaceful change but revolution.

It is not only the black, Coloured and Indian workers who would suffer. Many white people are living on slender pensions or wages, and professional people such as architects, accountants, civil engineers and so on, for whom there is no state aid, are already suffering from unemployment and privation.

Sanctions have never worked in any past situation, because the imposition is never total. They will not change the Government's mind. The economies of the surrounding States will be badly affected and the whole area of southern Africa will need much more international aid.

I want to see apartheid ended as much as any one, but by effective measures which will preserve and not destroy the existing economic and industrial structures and assets, so that the country will have the means eventually to build a new and better South Africa for all. Remember you are talking about people and not mere systems or abstract subjects such as black and white. Yours faithfully, C. J. JEWELL, 80 Rippon Road, Sydenham, Durban 4091, Republic of South Africa. July 14.

Defence equipment

From Mr James Cooper Sir, Your article today (July 14) by Philip Webster indicates that airships are being considered as an alternative to Nimrod. This raises all sorts of possibilities for criteria in the purchase of defence equipment.

1. Should running costs be the determining factor, then piston-engined fighters carrying sophisticated missiles could be purchased. On the ground, horses could be similarly equipped and could then perform in a dual ceremonial and fighting role. 2. Should we purchase equipment that does not require the potential enemy to worry about expensive state of the art technology? No need for "stealth" aircraft to knock out heavily defended electronic warning systems with balloons.

The present concept of AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control Systems) in general allows such a high degree of vulnerability that perhaps it is logical not to concern oneself at all with security. Yours sincerely, JAMES COOPER, 146 High Street, Watton at Stone, Hertfordshire.

A separate Bar

From Mr T. W. B. Brentnall Sir, I think few will disagree with the observations of Dr Mann (feature, July 11) on the subject of fusion of the legal profession. The central issue remains, however, the cost to the public; and unless this issue is tackled the system will change, for worse if not for better.

Solicitors cannot shirk their responsibility; but they at least are accountable. Their bills can be taxed at the instigation of the client and they have to justify their fees. Once a barrister's brief fee is agreed, however, that is an end of the matter.

The brief fee is agreed between the barrister's clerk and the solicitor and it is said that free market principles apply. But nobody who has had any direct experience of this side of the system could realistically say that in fixing the fee true market forces do apply.

Union elections

From Lord Rochester Sir, Lord Belfoff (July 14) rightly states that if postal ballots for conducting trade union elections were now the norm, none of the difficulties reported in the recent CPSA election would have arisen. Even under a system of workplace ballots, however, those difficulties could have been avoided if the practice which I advocated on behalf of the Liberal/SDP Alliance when the Trade Union Act 1984 was going through the House of Lords was now in operation.

This would have placed on the union the onus of satisfying an independent person, the certification officer, that a workplace ballot was being conducted with the requisite secrecy, convenience of voting and freedom from interference or constraint, rather than leaving it to aggrieved individuals to challenge dubious electoral procedures. Yours faithfully, ROCHESTER, House of Lords.

MPs' secretaries

From Mr C. F. A. T. Halliday Sir, As a public school housemaster I spend quite a bit of time trying to persuade young people to take on, in this ultra-materialistic world, the responsibilities of service without necessarily having material rewards. In view of the whacking great increase in secretarial expenses which I read our members of Parliament have voted for themselves, may I ask our leaders, or anyone else, how they propose to help those of us who try to put service ahead of material gain? Yours faithfully, CHARLES HALLIDAY, The College, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Historic buildings

From Mr Andrew Selkirk Sir, The House of Commons committee investigating historic buildings and ancient monuments has been very selective in its hearing of evidence. In particular it has ignored archaeological societies completely.

Yet the last 10 years have been disastrous for archaeological societies. Most have declined in numbers; their activities, particularly in excavating, have slumped disastrously and, indeed, judging by the calendar of excavations, it is now very difficult for anyone wishing to join a volunteer excavation to find one.

None of this appears to have got through to the committee. Although a number of local societies sent in submissions, none has been called upon to give oral evidence. Yet we are on the verge of a leisure revolution — we hope — where the potential contribution of volunteer archaeologists is simply enormous. The current decline must be reversed. It is too late to hope that the committee will pay a little more attention to the amateurs and a little less to the official bodies, if it is to make a worthwhile contribution to preserving our past? Yours faithfully, ANDREW SELKIRK (Editor, Current Archaeology), 9 Nassington Road, NW3.

Human rights law

From Mr M. L. S. Passey Sir, Dr Jaconelli (feature, July 18) claims that a British Government might seek to deprive the citizen in certain situations of the better protection afforded by English law by invoking the inferior protection afforded by the terms of the European Convention. Such tactics are ruled out by Article 60 of the convention, which states:

"Nothing in this Convention shall be construed as limiting or derogating from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms which may be ensured under the laws of any High Contracting Party ..."

He also argues that British judges by background and temperament are less suited to interpreting Bills of Rights than foreign judges. Surely the remedy for this inadequacy would be for the Bar and Law Society to make the study of the European Convention (and European Community law) compulsory elements in the professional training of the lawyers of the future. Yours faithfully, M. L. S. PASSEY, The University of Leeds, Faculty of Law, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Invalid permits

From Mr D. S. Sargent Sir, Mr S. Moss's letter (July 18) seems to have been written under a series of misapprehensions. The square badge for display on the windscreen is issued to the disabled person, not to the person who looks after him. It carries the disabled person's name and an expiry date. I see nothing to be gained from adding the doctor's name.

Perhaps Mr Moss is confusing the circular orange badge for the rear window, which has no force at all with the windscreen badge? Yours faithfully, D. S. SARGENT, Dohbs Well, Eastrip Lane, Colerne, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Connoisseurs' choice

From Mr John Carswell Sir, I was glad to see that the bidders of today (sale room report, July 17) confirmed the judgement of Paris by putting Venus first, and particularly interested to notice that after all these years they revealed what Paris himself wisely kept dark, namely second, Juno — third, Athene. Yours etc, JOHN CARSWELL, 5 Prince Arthur Road, NW3.

A ROYAL DAY

"A princely wedding is a brilliant edition of a universal fact and as such rivets mankind." Bagehot's insight was glimpsed at a time in the nineteenth century when, to many thoughtful observers, the monarchy must have seemed destined to enter upon a gradual decline in public esteem and importance. Princely weddings, they might have reasoned, would continue to attract more than their usual share of attention for some time, but their glitter would inevitably fade, their brilliance cease to rivet, and their significance become entirely private.

They would have been incredulous to be told that a princely wedding in the last quarter of the twentieth century would fascinate not only the populace of London and the nation, but also millions of people in the rest of the world; that many of these remote enthusiasts, though living happily in republics, would nonetheless employ the latest inventions of science to eavesdrop on a medieval display of royal pomp; that commercial enterprises, loyal to the cold rationality of profit, would pay the sincere tribute of high advertising rates in order to be associated with the feudal chivalry of the occasion; and that utopian radicals, denying the soul, would suddenly find it thrilling inconveniently to the jangle of spurs and the flash of steel.

Such a prophecy, seemingly

extravagant and paradoxical, is nonetheless confirmed by the jostling presence of the world's media at today's wedding of the Queen's second son, Prince Andrew, to Miss Sarah Ferguson. Some of the world's interest rests upon the personal qualities of the two young people about to marry. Prince Andrew showed in the Falklands conflict that he is a young man of bravery and dash. Miss Ferguson, thrust suddenly into the glare of klieg lights and unexpected fame, has revealed herself to be a level-headed and attractive young woman. A marriage between two such plainly likeable people would always warm the hearts of bystanders. But the princely character of the occasion is the larger explanation of the universal interest.

The character of the Monarchy's appeal is, of course, under constant subtle change. At the time of the Queen's accession, fears were expressed that the Monarchy was remote and confined in too narrow a social set. The Royal Family has since made its accommodation with the modern world of television and intrusiveness. When the couple approach the altar today, they will face — uniquely among wedding couples — a congregation in front of them via the cameras.

That accommodation has generally been managed without loss of the peculiar mixture

of majesty and restraint which has traditionally marked the British Monarchy. It has not lost its majesty like the cycling monarchs of Scandinavia who are, in effect, their countries' first civil servants. Nor does it exhibit a plutocratic enjoyment of mere wealth — though television, in covering events like the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the United States, might sometimes suggest the opposite. Its hallmark in everyday life has been elevated normality — the Royal Family has been, above all, a family — and its extravagance has been reserved for ceremonial state occasions like today's marriage. These occasions, moreover, belong to the nation as well as to the young couple, and so cement social unity rather than straining it.

All weddings, of course, blend private emotions with public ceremonial. Marriage is a sacrament which the bride and bridegroom administer to each other before God and a pledge to help each other face the troubles and difficulties which disturb every life and which may be particularly stressful in a royal one. But it is also a social occasion on which the two central figures announce their union to the family, their friends, the tax collector and the world — and receive in return good wishes for the future. We gladly wish Prince Andrew and his bride every happiness.

HOME THOUGHTS FROM RABAT

Mr Shimon Peres' decision to visit Morocco this week has been seen as a gambler's last throw. But it is hard to believe that he boarded his plane without a good idea of how the dice would fall. Like almost everything else to come out of Jerusalem, this "imaginative initiative" (as Whitehall described it) must be viewed against the backdrop of domestic Israeli politics. With three months to go as Prime Minister Mr Peres is passing through a turbulent finale to what has otherwise been a period of solid achievement.

After two years in power he has brought down the national inflation rate from more than 400 per cent a year to around 26 per cent at the last count. This has been engineered partly by the application of public spending cuts — not usually best calculated to endear a prime minister to his hard-pressed people. But in Mr Peres' case his assault on wasteful state bureaucracy and, most of all, his determination in withdrawing Israeli troops from Lebanon, rewarded him three months ago with the highest opinion poll rating of any Israeli prime minister for a decade.

More recently the Shin Bet security scandal and the final showdown between Mr Peres and his truhnesome justice minister, Mr Yitzhak Modai, have suggested that his term of office is ending with a bang, not a whimper. But the Prime Minister, who is due to hand over the reins of government to his deputy Mr Shamir in October under the terms of

their uneasy coalition, would seem to be intent that he should go out on a note of promise rather than despair. The promise must sound rather vague. His host in Rabat, King Hassan, is in theory a perfect interlocutor. A moderate Arab leader with pro-Western sympathies, he is nonetheless chairman of the Arab League. Two years ago, moreover, he signed (to everyone's amazement) a treaty with Colonel Gaddafi. Rabat has ethnic links with Israel through the large number of Jews who live there. Add to that the fact that Morocco played a part in getting the Camp David peace process off the ground and the relevance of King Hassan to the Arab-Israeli issue would seem to be undisputed.

Reaction to the Peres mission has been fairly predictable, with condemnation from radical Arab states like Libya and Syria and approval from moderate leaders — most notably President Mubarak. With West Bank opinion neatly divided, the only real surprise has been the strength of feeling in Damascus. For President Assad to sever relations with Hassan on the basis of a single visit, before the results are discernible let alone clear, would seem indeed to be a diplomatic blunder.

Apart from the depth of this Syrian antipathy, Mr Peres must have been less than surprised by the reaction of other countries. American advice is said to have been sought beforehand and it would be astonishing if soundings had not been made else-

where. Mr Peres' objective remains peace negotiations with King Husain of Jordan and moderate Palestinians, leading to a "land for peace" agreement in the Middle East. Is King Hassan the man to get this process going?

The answer to that might become clearer after Mr Peres' return to Jerusalem today. The Israeli Prime Minister sees the pursuit of a settlement as the last big task in front of him. There can be little chance that Mr Shamir and his confederates from the right-wing Likud will open up similar initiatives with equal zeal. The concept of giving land for peace is indeed foreign to them.

For Mr Peres it might be enough to get the process going. Even that is unlikely to happen as a result of this single dash to Rabat. But this could be the first in a series of meetings which would commit Israel to the kind of process Mr Peres seeks. While Mr Shamir might be ill-disposed towards it, he would find it politically more difficult to extricate the coalition government from a series of meetings already begun, than to escape involvement in the first place. If Mr Peres can start the machine, it might take some effort to stop it. That effort, moreover, might have to be made in the teeth of American opposition.

Mr Peres' flight to Rabat may indeed represent a throw of the dice by a premier with little time left. But if he has loaded them correctly he could well win a high enough score to keep him firmly in business until Israel's next elections.

PRIDE IN DEFEAT

The Government has put in six years' hard political labour in the municipal salt mines. It has tinkered with formulae, set targets, cut the grant proportion, rate-capped, re-cycled, close-ended. Local government finance has consumed umpteen hours of Cabinet and ministerial time, alienating backbenchers, creating unnecessary tensions between central and local levels of democratic representation. And to what purpose?

Mr Ridley, the latest toiler at the face, announced it yesterday. Aggregate current expenditure by councils in England has not shrank nor been reduced. It has grown, since 1981, by 38 per cent in cash terms, 7 per cent in real terms. The Government could have left in place the system as it was in 1980 and arrived today at virtually the same point, minus the aggravation and the sheer waste of time and energy.

Mr Ridley has recognized that reality. Indeed a phrase current in the minister's entourage is "real realism". This involves accepting that councils are now spending well in excess of White Paper plans, that there is no way of reducing the amount, and adjusting the plans accordingly. Councils' current budgeted

expenditure (9 per cent above plan) is being carried forward into 1987-88 in real terms. Mr Ridley's predecessors have all forgiven such overspending grudgingly and belatedly. Mr Ridley has forgiven it in advance. Behind his statement may be pure politics — clearing the decks for spring 1987. But the result is a cleaner profile for expenditure accounting than for several years.

A price has had to be paid. The Contingency Reserve has been raided. The Government's line yesterday was that a large part of the Reserve has in previous years been earmarked for local authority overspending; this year such sum is merely being transferred to the local authority allocation. That doctrine makes a nonsense of the idea of a Contingency Reserve. It shows how corrupting the Treasury's battle with local authorities has been.

Between them the Environment Department and the Treasury have concocted a package that ought, barring accident, to free the Government from a 1987 outcry about rates or other distractions on the local front. But again, the cost of political peace is worth noting. For the past five years the Government has cut the

proportion of local spending covered by Exchequer grants. The result has been to shift some part of the tax burden from income to property; rate-payers now bear a greater share of the cost of local services.

That process had beneficial side effects. It helped in the education of consumers about the cost of services; it was arguably fair for domestic property that was increasing in value to carry a greater tax burden (though the Government has waited too long to shield industrial property). Now, suddenly, with no good reasons stated, the transfer is said to have gone too far, become inequitable.

There are other quirks in the package. But the mechanics are on this occasion less important than the rhetoric. This RSG settlement represents a great defeat for the Government; it is lessened only a little by the promises of a grand reform of local finance still to come. The style of the moment is for ministers to praise their spending records on social services and educational provision. Their newfound pride rests to some considerable extent on expenditure by councils that has, until now, consistently been labelled as excessive and uncontrolled.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 22: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

ceded Mrs John Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.
CLARENCE HOUSE
July 22: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was presented this evening at a Concert given by Mr John Vallier in aid of the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation at the Royal Festival Hall.

Banquet

Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Mrs John Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

Birthdays today

Mrs Coral Brown, 73; Sir Alastair Down, 72; Mr David Essex, 39; Mrs Steve Fenwick, 55; Mr Michael Foot, MP, 73; Mr Graham Gooch, 39; Mrs Elspeth Huxley, 79; Mr Danny La Rue, 59; Sir Ivan Magill, 98; Mr Clive Rice, 37; Mr Richard Rogers, 53; Mr John Stokes, MP, 69; Mr Peter Twiss, 65.

Fortcoming marriages

Mr J.A.C. Hoagins and Miss G.A. Millham. The engagement is announced between Ashley, son of Mr John Huggins, of Lindfield, Sussex, and the Hon Mrs Angus Sinclair, of Embankment Gardens, London, SW3, and Geneva.

Marrriages

Mr J. Buchan and Lady Evelyn Phipps. The marriage took place on Saturday, July 19, at St Oswald's, Lythe, North Yorkshire.

Memorial service

Miss G. Wyndham Goldie. A memorial service for Miss Grace Wyndham Goldie was held at All Souls, Langham Place, yesterday.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM
Announcements, authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to: THE TIMES, PO BOX 404, Virginia Street, London E1.

Deaths

ADDLESHAW - On 22nd July, 1980, Derek Addleshaw, 70, of 125 Watlington Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Parties

'Not Forgotten' Association. The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General of the Royal Marines, was present at a luncheon of the Coloneled Commandant of the Royal Marines held at Admiralty House yesterday.

Sale room

Record pig painting sold for £15,400
By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent
A portrait of the largest pig reputedly ever bred in the British Isles secured £15,400 (estimate £8,000 to £12,000) at Sotheby's yesterday.

OBITUARY

BARON PHILIPPE de GUNZBOURG
Maquis contribution to the D-Day battle

Baron Philippe de Gunzbourg, whose mettle was displayed in his exploits with the Special Operations Executive's French section during the Second World War, died on July 10.

MR G. W. QUICK SMITH

Mr George Quick Smith, CBE, who died on July 15 at the age of 80, was one of the most influential figures in British road transport for a period of 40 years.

MR RAYMOND LOEWY

Mr Paul H. Pollak writes: I was somewhat saddened to read of the death of Raymond Loewy in The Times on July 16.

US cancer treatment developed for women

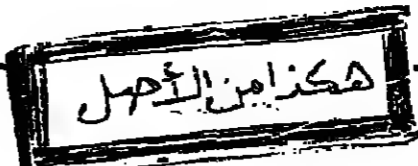
By John Newell
American scientists are developing a new way to treat cancers that affect only women. They plan to use a chemical which is produced naturally in the cells of male embryos and that suppresses the development of inappropriate female organs.

Science report

The new research indicates how MIS may also cause tumours growing in an adult woman's reproductive organs to shrink and disappear.

Television Writer's cramp
Nicholas Shakespeare
BBC PO Kite
Mr Ted Ellis

THE ARTS



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CK SMITH

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LOEWY

MIR TED ELLIS

Television

Writer's cramp

Tahira is Samsan for Teller of Tales. It is also the title of Channel 4's three-part whooper on the last years of Robert Louis Stevenson...

This island, as interpreted by the producer Ray Alchin, is a sub-tropical Twickenham infested with consuls, a crazy vicar, a wealthy estate agent...

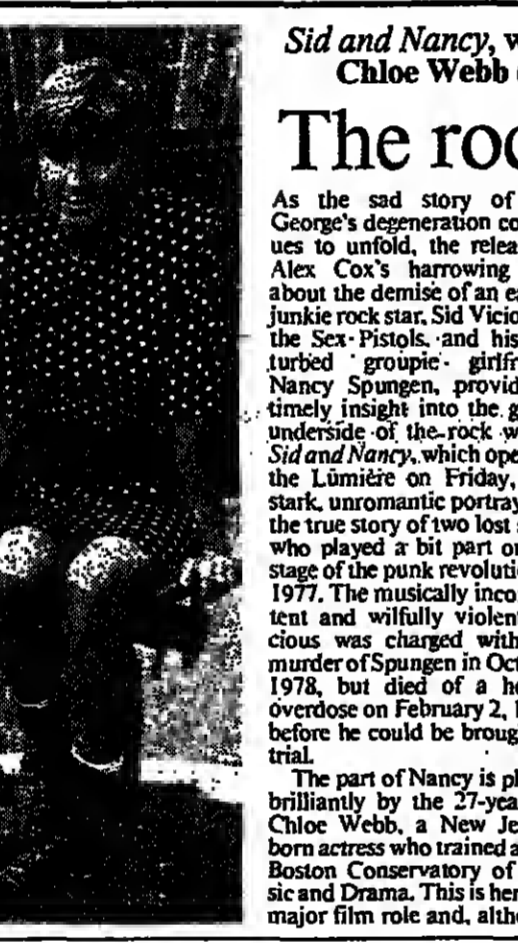
Nicholas Shakespeare

Theatre in New York

Bring on the film stars

I am going to put off discussing the New York openings as long as possible...

A Hispanic dope-dealer: Burt Young (Sylvester Stallone) brother-in-law in the 'Rocky' films...



Robert De Niro, playing for a pittance in the bold experiment of Cuba and His Teddy Bear



Robert De Niro, playing for a pittance in the bold experiment of Cuba and His Teddy Bear

Gray holding forth in two monologues so successfully in the small theatre at Lincoln Center that his run has been extended...

and theatre in London

A Colder Climate Royal Court

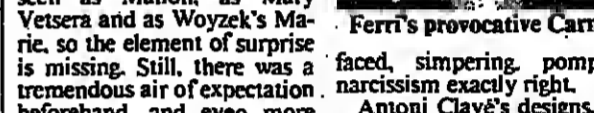
Karim Alrawi's 12 scenes of 'real' East End life strike a peal of false notes...

David Beames's three minor roles as a riverside club-owner, a bendable local copper and a Scottish boxing coach...

Martin Cropper

Dance Carmen Coliseum

Roland Petit created Carmen in 1949 to turn Renée Jeanmaire into a star...



Ferri's provocative Carmen

It is all the more successful for being programmed between two classical works in contrasting styles...

John Percival

Sid and Nancy, which opens in London this week, may bring the first major film role for Chloe Webb (left), but she comes to it well prepared: interview by David Sinclair

The rock world turns on its dark side

As the sad story of Boy George's degeneration continues to unfold, the release of Alex Cox's harrowing film about the demise of an earlier junkie rock star, Sid Vicious of the Sex-Pistols...

THE TIMES T-SHIRT & SHORTS

Advertisement for Times T-shirt and shorts featuring a man and woman in athletic wear, a list of sizes and prices, and contact information.

Advertisement for THE TIMES newspaper subscription service, including contact details and pricing.

Promenade Concert

BBCPO/Klee Albert Hall/Radio 3. Slowly but steadily the scope of Alexander Zemlinsky's music has been revealed to British listeners...

Advertisement for Hannah and Her Sisters film, featuring Woody Allen and the cast, at Odeon Leicester Square.

Advertisement for The Petition play, featuring Rosemary Harris and John Mills, at National Theatre.

Advertisement for London Festival Ballet performing La Sylphide at the Royal Opera House.

Advertisement for RSC Real Dreams production at the Barbican Theatre, featuring an excellent cast.

Benn will back Kinnock until election victory

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The threat of a hard-left challenge to Mr Neil Kinnock's increasingly moderate leadership of the Labour Party receded last night as Mr Tony Benn urged his followers to make an election victory their top priority.

Being there... come rain, hail or shine



Miss Christine Heron and her mother, Ruth, in the Mall yesterday (Photograph: Dod Miller). Standing room only outside Westminster Abbey.

By David Sapsted They would see more on television, of course, but being there was all that mattered for the thousands already lining the royal wedding route last night.

Marksmen will peer down from rooftops in an attempt to counter any terrorist threat. Most of the buildings along The Mall and Whitehall are government-owned and do not provide the police with the security headache that went with the long haul to St Paul's on the Prince of Wales's wedding day five years ago.

ubiquitous cameramen. Inside the Abbey, ladders and scaffolding rose in ungainly profusion amid the towers of flowers. Near by, the rates were being waived in St James's Park with the Royal Parks police admitting they were turning a blind eye to the overnight campers.

Ridley moves to keep rate increases down

Continued from page 1

proval from Mr Simon Hughes, the Liberal local government spokesman. The 47 rebel Liverpool councillors, who were disqualified from office and ordered to pay a £106,103 surcharge for delaying setting a rate last year, will have to wait to find out if their appeal has been successful.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements The wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey, 11.30. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, the Commonwealth Games Federation, attends a reception, Royal College of Surgeons, Nicholson St, Edinburgh, 7.

Exhibitions in progress

Portrait drawings by Wilhelm Hensel; McAlpine Gallery, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (ends Aug 24). 20th century drawings; Octagon Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 2 to 5, Sun 2.15 to 5 (ends September 28).

Books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week. Collins Guide to Cathedrals, Abbeys and Priories in England and Wales, by Henry Thorold (Collins, 215). Godwin's Political Justice, by Mark Philip (Duckworth, £28).

Road closures

Severe traffic congestion is expected in central London today on the occasion of the wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey. A number of roads will be closed to traffic and additional no parking restrictions will apply.

Press cuttings

Access to over six million press cuttings offering contemporary reporting and analysis of a broad spectrum of international affairs is now available at the British Library Newspaper Library.

The pound

Table with 4 columns: Country, Bank, Rate, etc. Includes Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, etc.

Weather

A depression over the North Sea will move SE into the continent and a showery airstream will cover the British Isles. 6 am to midnight London, SE, central S, central N.

High Tides

Table with 5 columns: Location, AM, FT, PM, HT. Includes London Bridge, Aberystwyth, Ayr, etc.

Around Britain

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Max, C. Includes Scarborough, Brighton, Dover, etc.

Floral display

A floral display in honour of the wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson can be seen today at the Trocadero centre in London's Piccadilly Circus.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,105

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 An Identikit label? (4-4), 5 Like the number at the beginning or end of a race (6), etc.

Flights of fancy at the Palace

Continued from page 1

was going on, but she did not have a temper. Asked how much she was hurt by criticism of her figure or her clothes, Sarah said: "At the beginning I made the mistake of taking it in and reading it; now I don't. It doesn't bother me any more. And also, I don't want to change at all. I am quite happy with myself." She scorned the suggestion that she was a diet.

Vertical advertisement strip on the far right edge containing various market listings and business notices.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Dixons man to Comet

AAH soars

listing sought

Guinness role

data trial

Granfield post

MARKET

STOCK MARKETS

INTEREST RATES

CURRENCIES

Page 25

US growth weakest since 1982

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US economy grew by just 1.1 per cent during the second quarter, confirming reports of a sharp slowdown which has led to calls for another round of interest rate cuts to bolster growth.

Commerce Department officials said yesterday that the second quarter figure, which compared to revised first quarter growth of 3.8 per cent, was the lowest since the last quarter of 1982 when the economy was still in recession.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, said the figures reflected "a sluggish performance which would be of great concern if it were to continue."

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, said that the slowdown paved the way for the Federal Reserve Board, which acts as a central bank, to authorize another cut in the discount rate which was lowered to 6 per cent only two weeks ago.

On Capitol Hill, where the slowing economy has loomed large as an election year issue, Senate majority leader Mr Robert Dole described the new data as distressing and called for another ½ point to

full-point cut in the discount rate. Democratic leaders said the data indicated that the four-year economic recovery was over, to be replaced by a long period of stagnation related to the huge budget and trade deficits.

The economy was battered during the second quarter by a continued sharp deterioration in the US trade performance. Despite the lower dollar, net exports fell by \$21 billion (£13.5 billion) after rising by \$6.1 billion in the first quarter. Lower non-farm stocks, which dropped by \$25 billion, also retarded second quarter growth.

Officials estimate that the trade deficit, which widened by more than \$155 billion last year, will set another record this year and possibly next. Concern over the manufacturing sector, which has been in virtual recession in some areas of the country, has grown in recent weeks with the announcement of poor earnings and rising layoffs.

LTV Corporation, America's second largest steel producer, petitioned the courts this week for reorganization

under federal bankruptcy laws, citing foreign competition and huge liabilities, amounting to \$4.22 billion, which it is unable to pay.

The second quarter slowdown, which had been widely predicted, has raised fears of another recession, particularly among private economists. They are less optimistic than Administration officials who predict a rebound in growth during the second half of the year as the effects of lower oil prices, the lower dollar and lower interest rates percolate through the economy.

But the Federal Reserve Board, which recently lowered its growth projections for this year to a range of from 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent, discounted fears of another recession in its semi-annual monetary report to Congress.

It indicated that the factors are ripe for a pick-up in the second half even though the timing is difficult to predict because of unknown developments in the economies of other industrialized nations.

The Federal Reserve indicated it would continue to support the economy with sufficient credit to avoid another recession.

A surprise BET £123m double bid

By Alison Eadie

BET, the diversified services conglomerate, surprised the stock market yesterday with the double announcement of an agreed £29.9 million bid for Brengreen, the contract cleaning company, and a £93.3 million contested bid for HAT Group, which supplies specialist services to the construction industry.

Mr Nicholas Willis, chief executive of BET, said he hoped to secure HAT's agreement to the bid, but Mr David Telling, HAT chairman, said the terms offered were wholly inadequate.

Mr Willis said both companies would be excellent strategic fits and would fill in gaps between similar BET businesses. He thought a reference to the Monopolies Commission could be avoided, as neither acquisition would take BET above 25 per cent in any sector.

The combination of BET and HAT in scaffolding, for example, would be 13 per cent, but Mr Willis pointed out that the Monopolies Commission had already cleared its unsuccessful bid for SGB, which would have given it a 20 per cent market share.

All three companies announced their results last week. Whereas BET showed a 34.3 per cent in pre-tax profits in 1985/86, HAT showed a 3 per cent decline in taxable profits to £11.1 million and Brengreen announced a 33 per cent fall in profits to £2.03 million.

The terms of the offers are five BET shares for 17 HAT shares, valuing HAT at 121½p a share after stripping out BET's 12p final dividend. HAT shares closed yesterday at 30p at 123p and BET closed down 15p at 42½p.

BET is offering one share for 9 Brengreen shares, valuing Brengreen at 46p ex dividend against a closing price of 44p. The cash alternative for Brengreen is 45p a share.

Greycoat reveals bid terms

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

Greycoat Group, the developer, has unveiled the terms of its hostile £108 million bid for Property Holding and Investment Trust.

It is offering PHIT shareholders 55 Greycoat shares for 100 PHIT shares, valuing PHIT shares at 135.3p. An alternative share and loan offer is worth 137.8p per PHIT share with a cash offer of 137.5p underwritten by Greycoat at 250p a share.

PHIT, whose shares stood at 149p last night, has rejected the bid. It is telling its shareholders that they will suffer a 59 per cent drop in income if they accept the ordinary share offer.

Pearl Assurance and Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust with nearly 24 per cent of PHIT have also rejected Greycoat's offer which has been successively scaled down. Greycoat says that net asset value after a merger would increase from 248p to 261p a share with no dilution. PHIT's last stated net asset value was 158p a share.

Greycoat also argues that combined assets of £300 million will allow for a development programme of £300-£700 million and the retention of a larger share of profits, statements which are questioned by PHIT.

Unigate group yesterday announced an agreed £25.8 million offer for Oldacre Holdings, an animal feeds supplier based in Cheltenham.

It is offering 183p a share in cash, a full 78p more than Oldacre's price before yesterday's announcement, with an alternative of three shares and 30p for every Oldacre share. Unigate shares closed unchanged at 283p while Oldacre shares soared to 180p.

Mexico and IMF agree to debt compromise

From Our Correspondent, Mexico City

Mexico has been allowed to go for moderate growth by the International Monetary Fund in an agreement which signifies a radical departure from the fund's traditional prescription for sick economies.

The IMF has been trying for more than a decade to cure the Third World's balance of payments problem with policies that invariably led to recession.

But the new agreement, signed in Washington, boils down to a tradeoff between Mexico's economic needs and the IMF's good housekeeping ideas. Mexico has agreed to keep trimming its budget and raising its income by gradually boosting the prices of public

sector goods and services. It will also sell or liquidate 300 state-owned companies and continue to cut subsidies to other industries.

In return, it has gained recognition that its dependence on oil has deepened its economic crisis. If prices drop below \$9 a barrel financial support will increase and if they rise above \$14 it will reduce.

Senior Gustavo Petricoli, the Mexican finance minister, immediately went to New York to attempt to raise another \$3.5 billion (£2.3 billion) in loans for next year.

With the IMF's green light, flashing the banks should lend a sympathetic ear.

Now, at the age of 66, he is as combative as ever and carries a golf club whenever he takes a stroll in the park.

Analysts said he will have to pick his fights more carefully if he is going to succeed at the top of Japan's most powerful ministry.

For months, Mr Miyazawa was a vocal critic of the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, resisting until the very end his efforts to hold a general election on July 6.

After Mr Nakasone's victory, Mr Miyazawa had little choice but to concede defeat, declaring he appreciated Mr Nakasone's leadership.

For his trouble, he has been rewarded with the job his predecessor, Mr Noboru

Kuchi Miyazawa: a vocal critic of Mr Nakasone

Takeshita, said no one wanted.

The former foreign minister's economic strategy differs from that of the Prime Minister. He wants more government spending, not less, and outright tax cuts.

Analysts said Mr Nakasone may use Mr Miyazawa as a foil to carry out the economic policy changes he now sees as

necessary but cannot implement without losing face.

Few doubt Mr Miyazawa has the intellectual ability to do the job, though some question his consistency.

A former finance ministry official, Mr Miyazawa is well-versed in economics and still has allies in the bureaucracy.

Although soon to be named leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Suzuki faction, the party's second most powerful, he is not particularly liked by other party members.

However, Mr Miyazawa, is at home with foreigners, especially Americans.

Benefiting the economic policies he espouses, he has strong personal connections with the Democratic Party in the United States. His daughter is married to an American diplomat.

He will need all the help he can muster in his battle against the spread of protectionism in the United States.



Sir Denis Rooke: Pressure to continue with rigorous efficiency drive

British Gas may cut prices

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A new year, post-privatisation gas price cut is possible after yesterday's announcement of a £687.8 million operating profit for the British Gas Corporation.

Sir Denis Rooke, chairman, who will preside over BGC's £8 billion stock market flotation in the late autumn, said that with the depressed oil price and provided the pound remained "fairly strong", the board saw no reason to make changes when gas tariffs were examined early in 1987.

"Indeed it is possible that we might be able to reduce them," he said.

The gas industry's costs rose by £737 million last year, of which £546 million was due to increases in the cost of gas. It paid £520 million to the Government's gas levy. A proportion of the corporation's gas costs is linked to oil, but lower oil prices will not be felt until later this year. The BGC has already lost about 15 per cent of its "interruptable" customers who can readily switch to fuel oil.

A freeze or cut in gas prices will have the biggest impact on domestic rather than industrial consumers. In real terms, domestic gas prices were 30 per cent lower now than in 1968.

Under the regulatory framework the Government is to impose on a private British Gas, prices will be allowed to rise by 2 per cent below the annual inflation rate each year. Sir Denis said the formula put pressure on the new company to continue with the rigorous efficiency drive that has been in place for some years.

While refusing to be drawn on the possible contents of the British Gas prospectus, due soon, Sir Denis hinted that profits this year would be down on the 1985-86 figure, which was itself £37 million above the previous year's operating level. It was not the board's job to speculate, he said.

The privatization project will give preferential treatment to British Gas workers, pensioners and customers. Sir Denis poured some scorn on the Labour Party's social ownership plan under which Brit-

ish Gas would be returned to state control in the event of a Labour government. When a government came to power, opened the national ledgers and saw the reality, he said, it had to think about priorities, and "jiggling about with our organization and who actually owns it" would not be high on the list.

Sir Denis said the BGC's results presented a picture of a sound and successful business. It had sold almost a billion more therms of gas than ever before, added more than 250,000 customers, met or was on course to meet every government target and had made no tariff increases.

In the last three years, the BGC has achieved a return on assets of 4.4 per cent against a Government target for the four years to 1987 of 4 per cent; net trading costs per therm of gas sold were reduced by 12.5 per cent against a Government target of 12 per cent by 1987; and the external financing limit for 1985-86, set at a cash surplus of £176 million, was a surplus of £190.1 million.

Barclays launches shares scheme

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank yesterday announced the first scheme by one of the big clearing banks to offer a special retail share dealing service to individuals which will also enable people to invest in the new government-sponsored Personal Equity Plan.

The scheme is centred on Barclaysshare, a wholly owned subsidiary and a member of the Stock Exchange.

Mr Robin Hoyer Millar, general manager in charge of Barclaysshare, said that the bank was enthusiastic about wider share ownership and wanted to offer a more attractive approach to share investment for its customers. He promised that the new service would operate on competitive dealing commissions and would charge only a small annual administration fee. It would be cheaper than the share service now offered in Barclays branches, he added.

Where possible, deals will be channelled through Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the bank's new securities market operation. But Barclays said that transactions would be on a "best price" basis and other brokers would be used when appropriate.

The share dealing service will be starting as a pilot scheme in three areas next summer, but the PEP service is planned to be in operation from January.

At present Barclays, like the other clearing banks, offers a share dealing service through branches, charging the brokers commission plus a minimum of £5 on each transaction. The bank handles around 1,000 transactions a day through its 2,000 branches. Mr Hoyer Millar said he hoped that by the end of 1988 the Barclaysshare service would be looking after around 100,000 customers.

The new service will offer a straightforward share dealing facility for Barclays Bank customers through the bank's branches where share price screens will be available. The service will include free stock market advice by phoning the Barclaysshare centre, and a regular newsletter. Branch staff will not be authorized to give investment advice.

The Barclaysshare PEP scheme will be run on a discretionary basis, with Barclaysshare itself making the investment decisions for the client. Barclaysshare will charge an annual management fee but no dealing commission to PEP customers. It would not reveal any fee or commission scales at this stage.

Record quarter for unit trusts

By Martin Baker

The unit trust industry attracted more money and a greater number of investors in the second quarter of this year than ever before.

The Unit Trust Association (UTA) yesterday announced a record £27.6 billion of funds under unit trust management. This is about £11 billion more than last year.

Investors placed a net £64.8 million in unit trusts

last month, another industry record.

The popularity of unit trusts coincides with strong performances from share markets, the entry of new managers, principally insurance companies, and a minor desertion of the building societies by small investors.

The number of funds increased by almost a quarter to 908 as insurance companies such as Crusader and Sun Life of Canada entered the market.

Plessey in deal with Apple

Plessey, the British electronics group, has taken up the dealership for Apple, the American microcomputer manufacturer. It also intends to purchase a number of Apple's microcomputers for its own use.

In the past year Apple has cut its workforce by about 20 per cent and shut its manufacturing complex in Dallas, Texas. But it has maintained growth in the home computer market and sought growth in the business sector.

Plessey Information Engineering will manage the dealership, which should be fully operational by the autumn. It will concentrate on selling the Apple Macintosh to the British Government, financial institutions and corporations.

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Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share 1274.7 (-1.5)
FT-SE 100 1559.2 (-1.0)

Bargains
23348

USM (Datastream)
123.62 (-0.64)

THE POUND
US Dollar 1.4900 (-0.0110)
W German mark 3:1812 (-0.0009)
Trade-weighted 72.8 (-0.2)

Dixons man to Comet

Mr Eddie Styring, managing director of Dixons stores until last month, has been appointed managing director of Comet, the electrical retailing subsidiary of Woolworth Holdings.

Woolworth said yesterday that it approached Mr Styring after Dixons Group's £1.8 billion bid for Woolworth failed. Mr Styring, who left Dixons during the bid, is believed to have had personal differences with Mr Mark Soubami, the managing director of overall retail operations including Dixons and Currys.

Mr Michael Hollingbery has relinquished his post of chairman of Comet, but will remain as a non-executive director of Woolworth Holdings. Mr David Hewitt, until now chief executive, will become chairman of Comet. Mr Jerry Mason will retire as managing director of Comet Radiovision Services.

AAH soars

AAH Holdings, the pharmaceutical supplier and fuel distributor, increased pre-tax profits from £11.2 million to £18.3 million in the year to March 31 as turnover rose by 87.5 per cent to £97.6 million. The final dividend of 4.86p, against 4.13p in 1984-85, made a total of 7.8p for the year.

£48m launch

Acacia & Hutchison, a producer of edible oils, is coming to the stock market with a £48 million price tag. Fifteen per cent of the equity is being offered for sale at 160p a share.

Listing sought

BTR Nylex, the Australian company 62.5 per cent owned by BTR, is seeking a London listing. No new money is being raised.

Guinness role

Lord Iveagh, president of Guinness, has appointed Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, as his personal independent adviser in the run-up to next month's shareholders' vote on the revised board structure.

Data trial

Mercury Communications, the telecommunications group owned by Cable & Wireless, is to begin trials in the autumn of a business data network carried by satellite IBM, the Stock Exchange and Electronic Data Systems will participate.

Cranfield post

Mr Leo Murray, regional director of Rothmans International, has been appointed director of the Cranfield School of Management.

Temps, page 22

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USM Prices	24
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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1784.85 (+15.74)
Dow Jones	329 (+14)
Tokyo	17639.32 (+117.10)
Nikkei Dow	1791.53 (+13.80)
Hong Kong	282.0 (-4.4)
Amsterdam Gen	1136.8 (-1.4)
Sydney AO	1782.4 (-12.5)
Frankfurt	642.08 (-15.32)
Commerzbank	353.7 (-3.0)
Brussels	2140 (-10)
General	2140 (-10)
Paris CAC	2140 (-10)
Zurich	2140 (-10)
SKA General	2140 (-10)

London closing prices: Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London:	Prime Rate 8%	New York:	8%
Bank Base:	10%	Federal Funds:	6 1/4%
3-month Interbank:	10-9 1/2%	3-month Treasury:	5.70-5.89%
3-month eligible bills:	9 1/2-9 3/4%	30-year bonds:	10 1/4-10 3/4%
buying rate:			
US:			

CURRENCIES

London:	£: \$1.4900	New York:	£: \$1.4855
Paris:	£: DM1.1812	£: DM2.1400	
Switz:	£: Sfr2.5782	£: Index:	112.3
Yen:	£: ¥10.2681	ECU:	DM688.241
Yen:	£: ¥233.48	SDR:	DM7.98987
Index:	72.8		

Fighter who landed the top Japanese job no one wants

Tokyo (Reuters) - Mr Kiuchi Miyazawa, Japan's new finance minister, is no pushover. Two years ago, he was wounded while fiercely resisting an attack by a knife-wielding assailant at a Tokyo hotel.

Now, at the age of 66, he is as combative as ever and carries a golf club whenever he takes a stroll in the park.

Analysts said he will have to pick his fights more carefully if he is going to succeed at the top of Japan's most powerful ministry.

For months, Mr Miyazawa was a vocal critic of the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, resisting until the very end his efforts to hold a general election on July 6.

After Mr Nakasone's victory, Mr Miyazawa had little choice but to concede defeat, declaring he appreciated Mr Nakasone's leadership.

For his trouble, he has been rewarded with the job his predecessor, Mr Noboru



Kiuchi Miyazawa: a vocal critic of Mr Nakasone

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:

ICI	880p (+5p)
Arian	820p (+14p)
Burnside Inv	630p (+17p)
Marler Est	545p (+15p)
Tod	133p (+9p)
Logica	70p (+15p)
Case Grp	214p (+15p)
Tozer K	155p (+9p)
Jaguar	500p (+10p)
Peritard	425p (+20p)
Whitbread	288p (+5p)
Davis & Newman	225p (+7p)

FALLS:

Dweek Group	105p (-12p)
Equipu	140p (-18p)
Conroy	128p (-10p)
Suter	228p (-10p)
Pinkington	610p (-5p)
Goring Kerr	370p (-30p)
Reed Int	970p (-25p)
Home Counties	210p (-25p)
Regellan	610p (-25p)

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$353.50 pm \$353.50
close \$353.50-354.50	(£237.00-237.50)
New York:	\$352.50-353.00
Comex	\$352.50-353.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept)	\$9.95 bid (\$10.45)
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WALL STREET

Table with columns for company names and stock prices, including AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

Courtaulds reports better results in problem areas

Courtaulds is benefiting from lower energy costs, Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday. Management was also achieving better results in many areas where performance was disappointing in 1985-86.

COMPANY NEWS

Trading profit 1,019 (1,214). Net interest received 3 (36). WHITBREAD: Mr Timothy Colman is retiring as a non-executive director owing to other business commitments.

TEMPUS

AAH's adopted baby brings a year of joy

Few acquisitions can have come off so well as AAH Holdings' £15 million purchase of Vestric, the pharmaceutical supplier, from Glaxo last year. Although AAH does not care to break down Vestric's profit contribution, it has obviously fitted in well with the group's established pharmaceutical wholesale division.

He will have a personal stake of 35 per cent in the £48 million company, and he has persuaded a clutch of leading institutional shareholders to give him first refusal on enough of their shares to take him over the 50 per cent mark during the next three years.

BTR Nylex

BTR Nylex, the Australian plastics company 62.5 per cent owned by BTR, is seeking a London listing to attract a more international institutional spread of shareholders.

Profits have gone up from £2.3 million in 1981 to £4 million last year, on sales of £266 million and the directors are forecasting profits of £6.7 million this year, giving it earnings per share of 15p and a p/e ratio of 10.3.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table listing Canadian companies and their prices, including Albitri, Alcan, Alcan Alum, etc.

APPOINTMENTS

Gomme Holdings: Mr Rodney F Hall and Mr J Richard Gawthorne have been named non-executive directors of the company formed for the management buyout.

McKechnie Brothers: Mr John Kembery and Mr Stuart Moberley have become directors. G.H. Wood & Co: Mr Eric Doerflinger joins the main board and becomes managing director, international division.

BASE LENDING RATES table listing various banks and their rates, including ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc.

AAH HOLDINGS plc Preliminary Results. Pretax profits and earnings per share at record levels. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS table showing Turnover, Profit before taxation, Earnings per ordinary share, Recommended final dividend per share. Includes Chairman's statement and contact information.

350 years on, and still making history. The Post Office Annual Report and Accounts. The Post Office handled a record number of inland letters and productivity was at its highest ever level in 1985/86 - our 350th Anniversary year. Includes The Post Office logo and contact information.

baby joy

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 The reason he is still...
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As a result, the FT index of 30 shares soon ran out of steam...
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كازمان العمل

Flood of £30m equities washes nervous buyers back to safety

By Michael Clarke

Early attempts at a rally by share prices yesterday were thwarted by the liquidation of a trust bringing around £30 million worth of equities onto the market.
 Several large lines of stock came on offer. Phillips & Drew, the broker, placed a line of 800,000 shares in Storehouse at around the 30p level. The price closed 1p lower at 31p after 13p.

There was also a line of a million shares in BA Group, the fast growing aviation products specialist, on offer at 22p. BBA finished unchanged at 22p.
 Other lines appear to have been easily placed. But the effect on the rest of an already nervous equity market was to send prices into reverse as the few cheap buyers who were around scuttled back to the sidelines.

Simon Engineering has been a weak market, falling almost 50p in recent weeks. Yesterday, the price firmed 3p to 236p. Some fund managers now take the view that the shares on a p/e of 7.9 and yielding 5 1/2 per cent are looking cheap and may be overdue for a rally. Simon could be one to look at once the market steadies.

As a result, the FT index of 30 shares soon ran out of steam. An early lead of 4.2 was eroded and the index ended the session 1.6 lower at 1,247.7. The broader FT-SE 100, which was 5.8 up at one stage, closed 1.0 down at 1,559.2.

Once again, turnover was down to a trickle and selling pressure was minimal. Buyers reported a few cheap buyers around after hours, raising hopes that the market

may enjoy a technical rally when trading resumes today. This hope was underlined by the latest American GNP figures, which were better than expected and may lead to an early cut in base rates. Wall Street celebrated the good news with the Dow Jones industrial average opening 15 points higher in early trade.

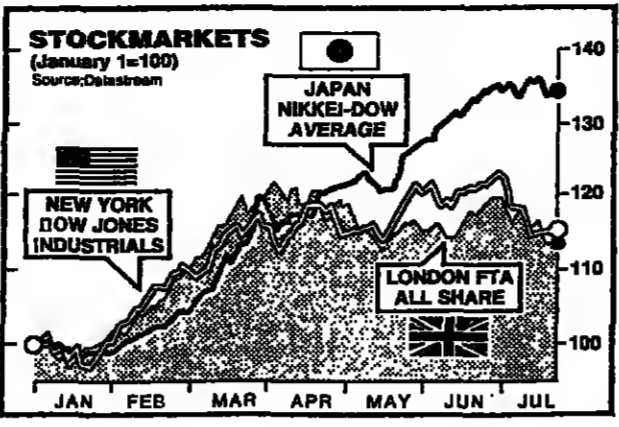
Gilts shrugged off the renewed weakness on the foreign exchange market with narrow gains up to 1/4p. But leading shares remained dull. Costain, the construction group, lost 2p to 53p despite confirmation that its recent £62.4 million rights issue had been taken up by 94 per cent. The remaining 820,000 shares were placed in the market.

The big four clearing banks remained a dull market ahead of the interim dividend season, which starts on Friday with Lloyds, down 5p to 39p.
 But Quilter Goodison, the broker, is optimistic and believes the books will produce satisfactory profits. Its analysts, Mr John Giniaris and Mr Roger Ackman, say the banks have continued to benefit from the consumer boom with mortgage lending, instalment credit and highly profitable personal loans and credit

card businesses all buoyant. The add: "We expect sector strength over the results season, stimulated by some impressive dividend increases."

However, interest is expected to wane in the autumn when investors take a longer-term view of the sector. Losses of 3p were also noted in Barclays Bank on 49p, Midland Bank on 53p, and National Westminster Bank on 49p.

Attempts at a rally by the recent debutante Morgan Grenfell ended in failure. After opening 4p higher at 445p, the shares ran into more nervous selling with the price ending the day 1p lower at a new low of 440p. The shares



55.4p and Sun Alliance 10p to 69.2p after 70p.

Among the insurance brokers, Stewart Wrightson regained some of its composure after recent fluctuations caused by speculation about a bid of 70p a share from Citicorp, the American banking and investment group. The price jumped 28p to 46p after hitting a peak of 47p.

Tod, the USM-quoted offshoot of CH Beare, has paid an initial £1.75 million for Straeker Construction, the privately-owned construction group.
 Tod, which plans to issue an extra 1.4 million shares to finance the acquisition, says it has enjoyed satisfactory trad-

ing and is looking for pretax profits of at least £1.3 million for the year to June 30, just ended. Analysts believe the group is capable of £2 million for the current year, where the prospective p/e is around 8. The shares advanced 5p to 13p.

BET is offering five of its shares for every 17 HAT shares. The deal values HAT at 121 1/2p a share and capitalises the company at £93.3 million. It is also offering one of its shares for every nine Brengreen. There is a cash alternative of 45p a share. The terms value Brengreen at 46p a share, or £29.9 million.

BET shares fell 15p to 42 1/2p on the news, while HAT Group jumped 32p to 125p and Brengreen 1 1/2p to 43.5p. Brengreen has often been tipped as a takeover target.

One of the day's biggest rises was Oldacre, the food manufacturer, up 7p at 180p after an agreed bid of 183p a share via Unigate. The terms value Oldacre at £26 million.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price
Accord Pub (125p)	167
Almasc (150p)	151
Angia Sacs (115p)	134-2
Assey (1 (155p))	212-41
BBB Design (87p)	70
Bosovero (145p)	42 1/2
Breda (125p)	136-1
Brodero (145p)	152
Chelsea Man (125p)	119
Costed Electrodes (84p)	127
Evans Hallshaw (120p)	119
Fletcher Dennis (70p)	74
Gulnie Corp (150p)	155-3
Hill Ergonom (82p)	50

RIGHTS ISSUES

Company	Price
Abaco Inv N/P	23-1
Antofagasta N/P	685
Colobur N/P	16-2
La Run N/P	510 1/2
Delatona N/P	223
Erskine Hsa N/P	11-1
Expamal N/P	9-2
Int Sepral F/P	223
Leigh Interests N/P	11-1
Top Value N/P	128-2
Wright-Catlic N/P	22-3/2
Yarmouth N/P	125-3/2

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Country	Rate
N York	148.44
Montreal	2,053-2,072
Amst Dam	374-3,5910
Bronse	63-65, 67
C Pagan	11,853-11,938
Edin	3,109-3,159
Frankf	1,085-1,075
Lisbon	218-221, 25
Mandi	217-233, 75
Oslo	11,078-11,124
Paris	10,297-10,293
Stm	10,478-10,529
Tokyo	221-223, 48
Vienna	22-23, 40
Zurich	2,555-2,572

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

City	Rate
London	148.44
New York	148.44
Frankfurt	148.44
Paris	148.44
Geneva	148.44
Zurich	148.44
Basel	148.44
Brussels	148.44
Amsterdam	148.44
Madrid	148.44
Bombay	148.44
Calcutta	148.44
Delhi	148.44
Rangoon	148.44
Ceylon	148.44
Singapore	148.44
Penang	148.44
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table of Unit Trusts (A-Z) with columns for Name, Bid, Offer, Weekly Change, and Yield. Includes sections for ASSET UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, ALIEN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, BALANCE OFFFORD, and BARRING FUND MANAGERS.

Table of Unit Trusts (A-Z) with columns for Name, Bid, Offer, Weekly Change, and Yield. Includes sections for M & G SECURITIES, HOWARTH UNIT MANAGERS, SPANISH UNIT MANAGERS, and TARGET TRUST MANAGERS.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of Unlisted Securities with columns for Company, Price, Change, and Yield. Lists various companies like A & M, AIA, and others.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of Investment Trusts with columns for Company, Price, Change, and Yield. Lists various investment trusts like 177, 178, 179, etc.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of Financial Trusts with columns for Company, Price, Change, and Yield. Lists various financial trusts like American Express, BNP, etc.



Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Cols. as per. Lists various companies like Anglo-Siam, Anglo-Siam, Anglo-Siam, etc.

Please be sure to take account of any minor signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, %

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

UNDATED table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Equities fade

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on July 14. Dealings end on Friday. Settlement day next Monday. Settlement day August 4. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Table with columns: 1986 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

BREWERIES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

ELECTRICALS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

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FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

FOODS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

HOTELS AND CATERERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

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Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

Please be sure to take account of any minor signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, %

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

UNDATED table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, %

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Portfolio Gold

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Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

Please be sure to take account of any minor signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

Investment Trusts appear on Page 24

LEISURE table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

PROPERTY

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

MINING

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

SHIPPING

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

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SHDES AND LEATHER

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TEXTILES

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %

TDBACCOOS

© Ex dividend or Ex alt b Forecast dividend or interim payment disclosed if P/B ratio is based on dividend yield unless a special dividend is declared or otherwise stated. Ex alt c Ex ratio or share split 1:10 etc. No significant data.

A SPECIAL REPORT ON
ITALIAN BANKING

FOCUS

Prosperity
despite
profligacy

The inclusion of Bettino Craxi at Madame Tussauds was welcomed in the Italian press. Here, at last, after Sophia Loreo, was an Italian who, thanks to three years as Prime Minister, appeared to have made a firm and lasting impression abroad.

Alas, like the wax in the effigy, the impression quickly melted. No sooner was the statue ready than the Craxi coalition fell.

The event was a reminder of the feeling of insecurity that, in the Italian financial world, too, is never far below the surface.

The Bank of Italy ran into this last winter, when all seemed set fair for the economy, thanks to falls in the price of oil, the value of the dollar, inflation and domestic interest rates. But, as the governor, Signor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, told the bank's annual meeting: "Business sentiment changed abruptly in the last week of November. A foreign exchange crisis broke out, which lasted for 30 trading days from then until the middle of January and proved to be one of the most serious of recent years."

Its cost was \$5.3 billion out of foreign-exchange reserves, a tem-

Risks of too rapid
technical progress

porary rise in interest rates, a ceiling on bank lending and other restrictions.

The governor's speech to the annual meeting was interspersed with references to the risks inherent in increasing competition among banks, in rapid technical innovation and — the most immediate problem of all — in the government's inability to master public spending.

The public sector borrowing requirement was 16.1 per cent of gross domestic product in 1985, against a target of 14.4 per cent. Though the Treasury aims at a ceiling of 100,000 billion lire (about £43.8 billion) on the public deficit this year — below last year's objective of 110,000 billion lire —

the figures so far indicate that the target will be exceeded.

The economy is prospering despite government profligacy and the persistence of above-average interest rates. The Treasury expects the increase in gross domestic product, 2.3 per cent in 1985, to go up to 3.5 per cent this year, although other authorities are less optimistic.

Inflation, which came down to single figures in 1985 for the first time in 13 years, is projected by the Treasury to reach five per cent this year and four per cent next.

The fall in oil prices has brought a windfall to the economy, put at 15,000 to 20,000 billion lire, that will be reflected in the balance of payments.

The financial sector is also on the move, but a note of uncertainty has been injected by the rapid spread of financial services, known in Italian as parabanking.

A research study presented to a symposium in Venice on parabanking organized by Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, the country's biggest bank, found that Italy was late in entering the field, but is now making up lost ground. In factoring, turnover in 1985 was greater than in any other European country, including Britain, and second only to the U.S. In leasing, Italy was third in Europe in 1984, behind Britain and France but ahead of West Germany.

The personal savings rate, the highest in Europe, has found an outlet in mushrooming unit trusts and consequent spectacular rises on the stock exchange. Opinions are heard that more attention is likely to be paid in future to investment trusts (closed-ended funds), Anglo-Saxon-style pension funds, and mortgage finance for housing.

Increased competition in the insurance market should result from government authorization in July to Lloyd's of London to operate openly.

Legal structures have not kept pace with the financial revolution. Bills have yet to be approved by parliament on factoring, venture capital and merchant banking,



The financial district of Milan, still the economic powerhouse of Italy

The Venice meeting was told that the leading leasing houses have themselves drawn up a self-regulatory code for their sector.

Traditional banks, which have prospered in the successive ages of gold money and paper money, are facing a challenge in the transition to what Signor Guido Carli, a former governor of the Bank of Italy, describes as "immaterial money".

They find that as deposits from the public grow more slowly, they are criticized, not only for high lending rates, but for failing to modernize their mentality. As a speaker at Venice said, while private firms have invested in innovation, banks continue to invest in palazzi or property.

Many bigger banks deny being hide-bound, pointing to associations and subsidiaries that they have formed in parabanking services. Banking efficiency should be stimulated by part-privatization moves under way in the large, publicly owned sector, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, for example, is to offer 49 per cent of its capital on the market to private investors.

However, the authorities are disturbed to see indications of industrialists and firms buying

control over banks. It has been policy to try to keep banking and industry apart since close links between the two threatened the collapse of several leading banks in the early 1930s, in the wake of the world depression.

Entrepreneurs with
holdings abroad

buying spree as never before. Recent examples abroad have been Fiat's entry (alongside United Technologies) into Westland, takeovers by Signor Carlo de Benedetti of the French car-components maker Valeo and of Triumph-Adler in West Germany. Montedison's purchase of control over the Swedish pharmaceuticals company Fermema and the moves by Ferruzzi to wio control of Berisford.

Altogether, Italian entrepreneurs are estimated to have controlling or substantial holdings in 680 firms abroad, with 232,000 employees and turnover of 33,000 billion lire (£14.5 billion).

It would be incorrect to describe the risks facing the banking system

as unprecedented, for well in advance of the Sindona and Calvi crasbes — which would no longer be possible under recent legislation — there were major banking failures in the 1890s and after the First World War.

The shock waves of the world depression led to the Banking Act of 1936, still at the basis of the system. The central bank has been given wide powers of supervision and control. These include authorization for the establishment of new banks and for the opening of new branches. For new branches of existing banks, Signor Ciampi promises a policy of increasing liberalization.

On the other hand, many new financial services are outside the net of supervision or regulation, including some taking money subscribed to the public. Many financial organizations are linked to leading banks of known reputations but others are managed by individuals who may be unscrupulous or simply inexperienced.

There have been cases of property funds collapsing without reimbursement for subscribers. It is in the area of unregulated financial services that the risk may lie

John Earle

A rough ride but
the British
are persevering

FOREIGN BANKS

A large notice above plastic sheeting shrouding a five-floor building under renovation in Milan's Via Moscova proclaims this to be the new headquarters for the Barclays group in Italy.

This is one way of giving the lie to any suggestion that, after a shock loss last year of 52 billion lire (£22.6 million), the most intimately involved of British banks in Italy is considering pulling out. Besides having banking branches in Milan, Rome and Bologna, Barclays has subsidiaries offering a range of merchant banking and financial services which, it says, occupy 13 locations in Milan alone.

The intention is to concentrate most of these in the new building, rented on a long lease. It hopes to be back in profit in two years.

Meanwhile, Barclays is undertaking a drastic reorganization, dropping smaller clients in favour of what it calls "the high end of the market", both in individuals and companies. It is also cutting staff. In May it abruptly announced the dismissal of 165, or nearly half those working at its Milan banking branch, the first mass sacking in Italian banking.

In the face of strong union opposition, however, it withdrew the notices and has since been quietly slimming, in agreement with the unions, by placing employees with other banks and offering inducements such as early retirement inducements.

Barclays provides the most striking example of the difficulties that, to a greater or lesser degree, have affected many of the more than 30 foreign banks in Italy.

Lacking a retail base, most have drawn their funds from the inter-bank market, and were able to enjoy a spread of around four points in the 1970s, when all banks were subjected to strict lending ceilings in relation to their deposits. But that margin disappeared when the ceiling was abolished and competition heated up. Losses have not been uncommon in recent years.

However, many foreign commercial banks, including the big names in London, think that Italy is too important a market to be neglected.

Besides Barclays, managers

from Lloyds, Midland, Standard Chartered and Hongkong Bank all stressed their faith in the future of the economy and in the resultant opportunities for their services.

Standard Chartered, which opened its Milan branch in 1973, reported what it describes as reasonable profits for the first 10 years, then ran into losses between 1983 and 1985. It took corrective action, closing a second branch, in Padua and setting up a finance subsidiary in Milan concentrating on the domestic capital market.

For the Hongkong Bank, whose Milan branch opened in October 1982, foreign trade financing is a major activity, particularly to the Far East, but also to the Middle East (the British Bank of the Middle East is a subsidiary) and Europe. It sees itself well-placed to benefit from the expansion on the horizon in business with China.

Midland arrived last year in its Milan branch opened only in January, after several years of hesitation over taking the plunge. It stands out in having an Italian manager, who was formerly on the foreign side of Banca Commerciale Italiana, the second biggest domestic bank.

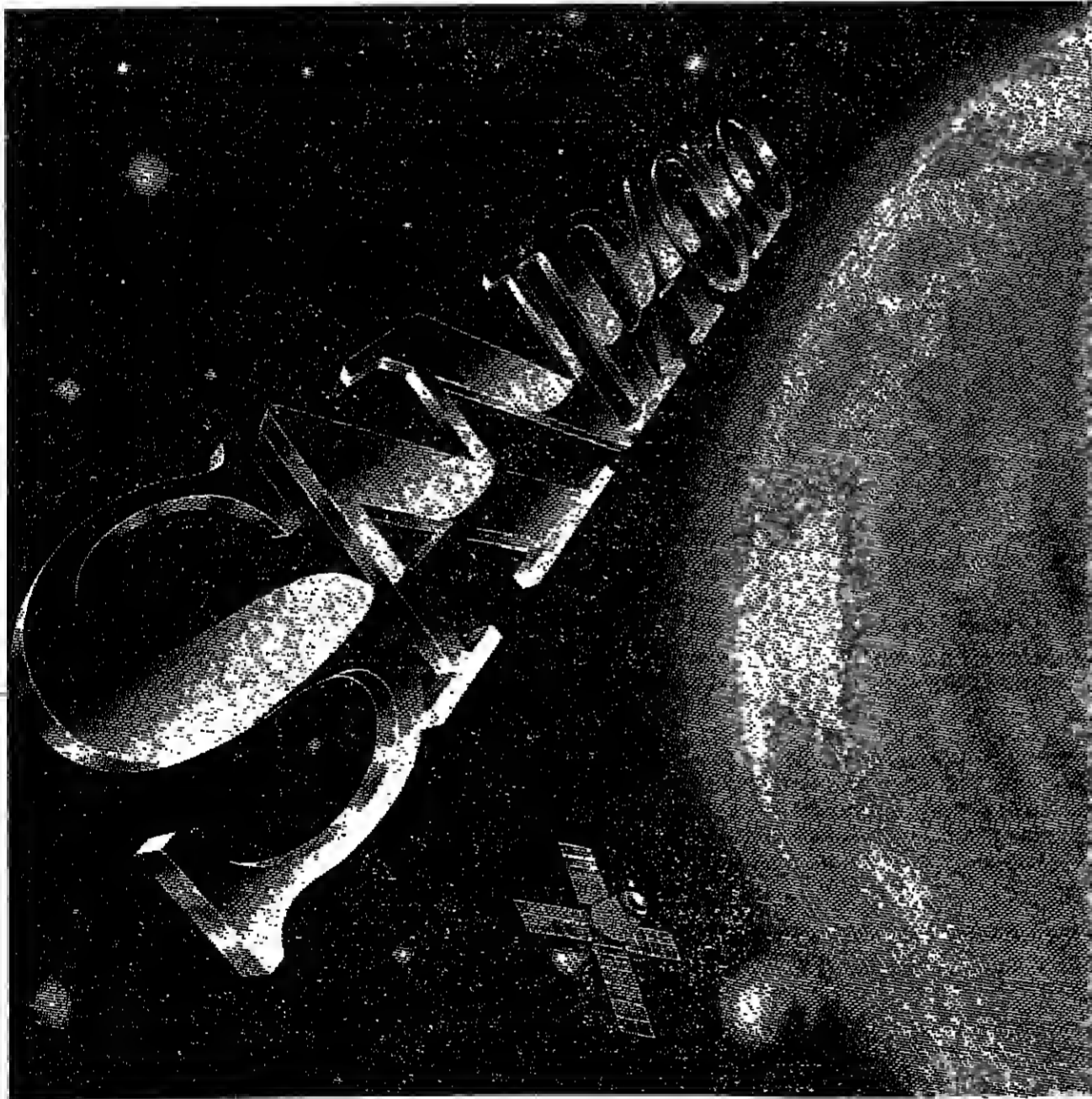
One of the few to cater for the small private account holder is Creditwest, a joint venture between Credito Italiano (50.14 per cent) and National Westminster (31 per cent), with the rest spread

Well-placed for
the China factor

among 5,000 shareholders. In 1972 Credito Italiano, one of the big state-owned banks, bought nearly 82 per cent of a small private Milanese bank and looked for a junior partner. NatWest says it took this opportunity to enter Italy, at a time when it was not so easy as now to obtain Bank of Italy authorization to set up on one's own.

Creditwest is a normal Italian commercial bank, with five branches in Milan and one in Rome (permission has recently been granted by the Bank of Italy for a second Rome branch). NatWest says Creditwest has consistently made a profit and has been one of its most successful joint ventures anywhere. JE

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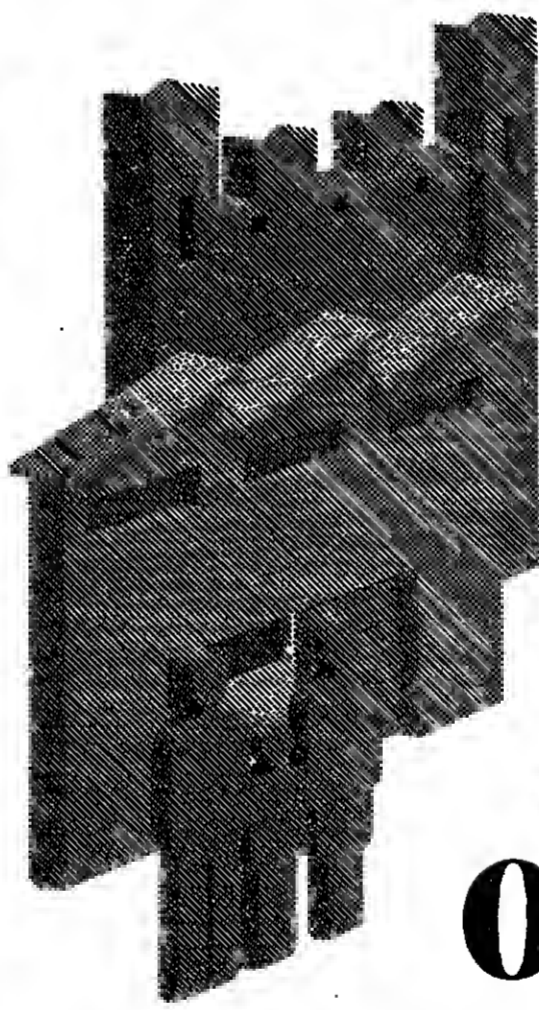
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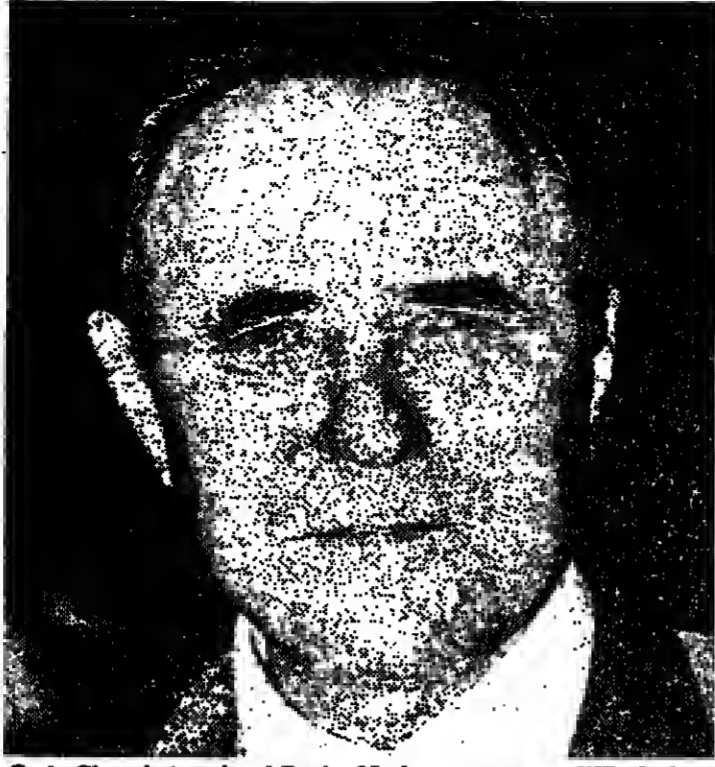
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ITALIA

Slow progress in international monetary coordination worries the central bank as Italian attitudes towards the financial system undergo fundamental change

CARLO CIAMPI

Italy, in the uncharitable phrase of a domestic commentator, is more a country of Sindonas and Calvis than of Rothschilds or Warburgs. The former two, whose deaths remain mysteries, caused the biggest banking collapse in the republic's history. Yet they were only the two most spectacular scandals in a series involving the worlds of finance and politics in the last 20 years.



Carlo Ciampi: Appointed Bank of Italy governor at a difficult time

Such events add to the burden of the Bank of Italy in its tasks of maintaining the stability of the currency and exercising supervision over the banking system. Its governors, furthermore, have had to be vigilant over the years to preserve the bank's integrity and ward off interference from politicians.

The slow struggle towards victory

Signor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the present governor, was appointed at a difficult time, in October 1979. Seven months earlier his predecessor, Signor Paolo Baffi, had been put under judicial investigation and the deputy director general, Signor Mario Sarcinelli, had been imprisoned for two weeks. Both were alleged to have concealed a fraud.

freewheel to a freak 19 per cent depreciation against the dollar on the "Black Friday" of July 19, 1985, on the eve of a planned devaluation.

Both Signor Ciampi and the Christian Democrat treasury minister, Signor Giovanni Goria, offered their resignations, only to have them rejected. Mud was also thrown at the bank's management early this year by some Socialist trade union leaders, who made vague allegations about its having "skeletons in the cupboard."

Signor Ciampi emphasizes the bank's operational autonomy, free from political conditioning. In practice, the governor works closely with the treasury minister of the day and with the cabinet's credit committee in deciding monetary policy.

The governor is appointed by the bank's supervisory board (on which there are no government nominees) for a term without limit. The government has to give its consent, however, because the appointment must be confirmed by decree of the President of the Republic.



Symbol of the Banca d'Italia, the central institution with the task of maintaining the stability of the national currency

the central bank can tailor its purchases of treasury bills to its objectives for credit expansion.

Internationally, Italy has gained status since the Tokyo summit in May decided to involve it and Canada in the monetary deliberations of the Group of Five. Here the bank benefits from the experience of its number two, Signor Lamberto Dini, the director general, who came from the International Monetary Fund.

Both Ciampi and Dini are worried by the slow progress in translating into practice the objectives proclaimed by the leading powers towards monetary and economic co-ordination.

To those who criticize the retention of capital controls, Signor Ciampi recalls that the European Community has allowed Italy to maintain them until the end of 1978. In fact, during the last two years a 50 per cent premium to be deposited in buying foreign assets has been cut to 25 per cent, while firms obtain exemption easily enough for bona fide purposes, and unit trusts can invest 10 per cent of their assets abroad without paying any premium.

Italy's situation is still considered fragile, above all because of excessive government spending, but Signor Ciampi promises continuing slow and prudent progress towards liberalization.

Another failure such as that of the late Roberto Calvi's Banca Ambrosiana should not be possible, both because of the tightening of international bank collaboration in the renegotiated Basle concordat, and because of recent legislation requiring Italian banks to consolidate accounts with their foreign affiliates.

However, the position of the Vatican Bank under Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, involved in the Calvi collapse, remains unchanged. It is classed as a foreign bank, but Signor Ciampi would like to see it apply to open a branch on Italian soil for its lira business.

The Bank of Italy has completed technical preparations for a new or heavy lira, equivalent to 1,000 of today. If all goes well, the governor will be able to mark victory over inflation with its introduction next year.

UNIT TRUSTS

Italian mutual funds (unit trusts), which have helped fuel one of the longest bull runs in living memory on Milan's stock exchange, have become a catalyst for change in Italy's increasingly advanced financial system.

Though the boom on the stock exchange appears to have run its course, it is clear that the funds, which by the end of June commanded 52,870 billion lire (about £23 billion) of invested assets, are here to stay.

The funds, which first opened for business only two years ago, owe their extraordinary success to a combination of factors, not least the fact that profits are exempt from any form of capital-gains tax. Their launch, after years of procrastination by the government and initial opposition by the powerful banking lobby, was able to benefit immediately from a thrifty public anxious to find a tax-efficient alternative to piling their savings in bank deposits and treasury bills.

The creation of the funds also coincided with and helped to contribute to an 18-month boom on the Milan stock exchange which saw share prices rise dramatically before it ran out of steam at the end of May.

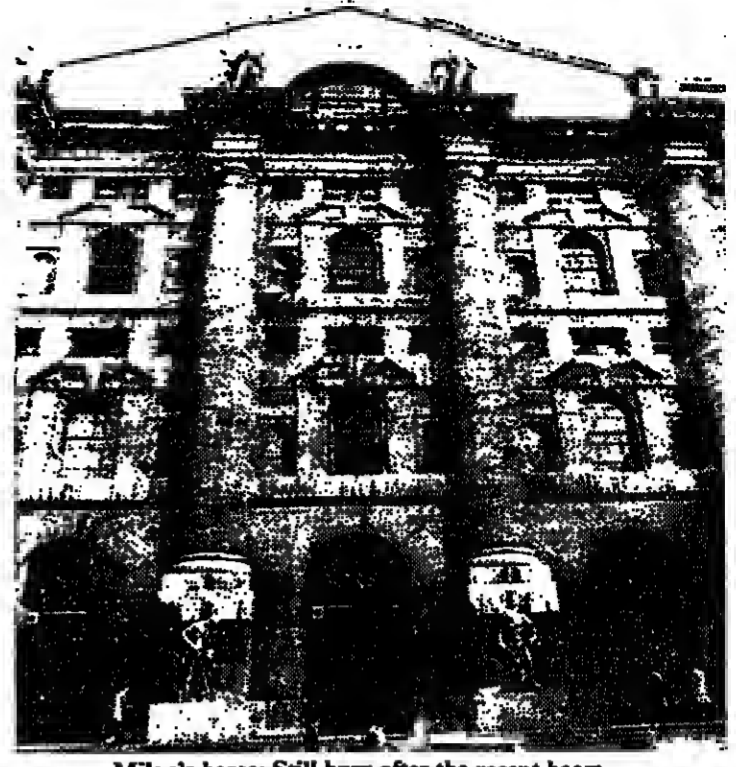
Milan's star-performing stock exchange, which owed its success at least as much to a sharp recovery in company profits as to demand from the funds, has been the delight of the fund managers, who have been able to secure spectacular returns for their clients.

A unit acquired on June 30, 1985 in one of the share funds, which invest exclusively in stocks and shares, would by the end of last month have earned its owner a return of just over 60 per cent. A unit invested in the other main type of trust, known as the "balanced fund," holding treasury bills as well as shares, would have earned the investor a capital gain of 47.6 per cent over the same period.

There is a third type of trust, similar to the British gilt funds, which invests only in government debt. Not surprisingly, it has been somewhat eclipsed by the other two funds.

However, analysts believe its popularity is destined to grow when investors start to realize that the share and balanced funds will be lucky to go on earning the rates of return they have achieved over the past 18 months.

Figures released in early July by the mutual funds association suggest that the rate of growth is



Milan's bors: Still busy after the recent boom

Stars of a bullish stock exchange

finally slowing down. Some observers believe this may even be salutary. Giuseppe Santorsola, a lecturer at Italy's top business school, the Luigi Bocconi University in Milan, said: "It would be positively dangerous for the funds to go on expanding so rapidly because Italy's financial markets do not have the capacity to absorb all the money."

As it is, about 60 per cent of the funds' assets are invested in Italian treasury bills and long-term certificates and this proportion could grow if subscriptions continue to flood in from investors.

Despite a succession of major cash calls on shareholders by leading Italian companies and a series of new listings on the stock exchange, supply has not managed to keep pace with demand. Some fund managers have even called on the Bank of Italy to allow them to invest more abroad. Until now the mutual funds have been allowed to invest up to a maximum of 10 per cent of their assets in foreign securities.

However, Lamberto Dini, director-general of the Bank of Italy, gave a clear signal last month that

the central bank is in no mind to put special subscription of Italy's huge government debt at risk by allowing unlimited investment abroad by the trusts.

One predictable side-effect of the funds' growth has been a sharp fall in the growth rate of bank deposits. Carlo Ciampi, governor of the Bank of Italy, said in his annual report at the end of May that bank deposits had grown at an annualized rate of only 3.9 per cent over the first four months of this year, compared with 16.7 per cent over the same period for 1985.

Not surprisingly, the banks, after initially resisting the introduction of the funds, have become their main promoters and now control nearly all the 55 funds on the market.

"The whole concept of banking is changing in Italy," Signor Santorsola says. "Customers spend less time haggling with the bank manager over the interest rate offered on their deposit account but want to know more about the other fund-managing services he has to offer."

A special correspondent

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Balances with bank	1.226	+ 7%
Securities	757	-
Advances to customers	797	+ 25%
Total assets	3.190	+ 11%
Customers' deposits	1.668	+ 12%
Total deposits	2.471	+ 9%
Capital and total reserves	243	+ 7%
Net profit	19	+ 15%

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 - Cassa di Risparmio delle Province Lombarde - New York Branch
 - The Chuo Trust and Banking Company, Limited - New York Branch
 - Cassa Nazionale de Credit Agricole
 - The Daiwa Bank Limited - New York Branch
 - The Hokkaido Takushoku Bank, Limited - New York Branch
 - Monte dei Paschi di Siena - New York Branch
 - Philadelphia National Limited - New York Branch
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ITALIAN BANKING/3

FOCUS



Traders in Taranto, southern Italy: Credit cards are seldom used in a country that has usually preferred to deal in cash.

RETAIL BANKING

After years of complacency, Italy's banks are trying to broaden their range of retail services. But they are finding that one of the biggest challenges is to convince a public with a strong preference for cash transactions that modern banking offers practical alternatives. Talk of the advent of a "cashless society" rings rather hollow in a country where the use of credit cards and even cheques lags far behind other west European countries. Only two million credit cards are in circulation in Italy, compared with six times that number in France. Figures released recently by the Italian Banking Association showed that 71.7 per cent of tax receipts, 67.5 per cent of insurance premiums and 65.7 per cent of rents on property are still paid in cash. Banks have also found, occasionally much to their cost, that to their haste to innovate they have sometimes introduced products with inadequate preparation and scant regard for modern methods of market research. The chequered career of Italy's ambitious cash-dispenser system, Bancomat, is one such example. Launched with much fanfare two years ago as the first cash dispenser network involving all the major banks in a single country, Bancomat became a source of derision after a gang of ingenious criminals cracked the system and made huge illicit withdrawals. Italy's press scornfully dubbed the service "sbancomat", which translates loosely as

How to win cash dealers to plastic

"bankruptomat", and public confidence in the dispensers slumped. The thieves had exposed a fatal flaw in Bancomat. The system was not "on line", meaning that withdrawals made through cash dispensers were not electronically debited from a customer's account immediately but only after a delay of two or three days. All the thieves had to do was to discover the secret code used by individual clients to enter the system, which they did by placing infra-red television cameras in vans parked in front of dispensers. Then, by drawing on information obtained from print-outs discarded by customers after they had made withdrawals from Bancomat dispensers, they made numerous copies of magnetic cards used by clients, which then enabled them systematically to ransack the system. The banks soon realized what was going on and suspended use of the dispensers at weekends and after office hours, when the network was at its most vulnerable to theft. This also meant Bancomat was unusable at times when customers were most likely to need it for cash. The banks are now pinning their hopes on a revival of the service when an "on-line" system, which they hope will be burglar-proof, is introduced throughout the country later this year. Critics of the system say that banks have indiscriminately handed out Bancomat cards to their customers without making a serious effort to find out whether they all had any use for them. Bank analysts estimate that fewer than a quarter of the four million dispenser cards in circulation are used with any regularity. Meanwhile, a new dimension is shortly to be added to the Bancomat card when a pilot "point of sale" scheme "goes live" in Milan, Rome and several other big Italian cities this summer. In Milan, the first Italian city to launch the experiment, Bancomat holders will be able to use the cards to make purchases in 70 retail outlets scattered throughout the city centre. Italy's leading banks have also finally clubbed together to launch a new national credit card, called "Cartasi", giving Italians a home-grown alternative to American Express, Visa and other foreign credit and charge cards which until now have had the field almost entirely to themselves. Cartasi already has a client base numbering 300,000 users since it was formed by merging two other credit cards, one of them offered by one of Italy's biggest commercial banks,

Banca Commerciale Italiana, and the other by Credito Italiano, together with a group of savings banks (*casse di risparmio*). All the leading banks have now agreed to offer the card to their customers. Cartasi will be a credit card offering similar facilities to Visa, although the Italian promoters claim that it will offer more competitive terms. However, some bankers are sceptical about whether the card will ever really catch on in a country where retail network is still dominated by small shopkeepers with a preference for being paid in cash. It is not uncommon in Italy for shopkeepers, on production by a customer of a credit card, to offer a discount on condition that payment is made in cash or by cheque. Italians tend to consider credit cards more a symbol of creditworthiness and status than a practical tool for making purchases. Despite difficulties with Bancomat and uncertainties over Cartasi, there have been improvements in some of the basic services offered by banks in recent years. Perhaps the most striking has been in one of the simplest operations, that of cashing a cheque, traditionally one of Italy's more nerve-racking experiences. It is now possible to do this in most major banks in a single operation. This means having to queue just once, whereas formerly one had to hand in the cheque to a bank clerk and then join a second queue to collect the money from a cashier.

A special correspondent

Lacking muscle, but masters of the Ecu

EUROMARKETS

Italy has an economy roughly the same size as Britain's. It is a founder member of the European Community and likes to claim that it invented modern banking. Certainly, the word bank is derived from the Italian word for a bench on which money lenders sat, and the bankers of Lombardy gave their name to a well-known street in the City of London. However, Italian banks have made little impact on the European scene and their activity in the Euromarkets - bankers' jargon for lending in international securities and currencies which have no national home - is smaller than their background might suggest. A glance at the 1985 league tables of managers and book runners (those who arrange the issue and make a price for it) for Eurobonds and syndicated loans shows that Italian banks did not figure at all among the top 50 houses in these markets. Only in the technical area of lending in European Currency Units (Ecu) have Italian banks carved out a niche for themselves. There are signs, however, that the recent reorganization of the Italian financial system, largely at the behest of the Bank of Italy, the central bank, may be tempting Italian banks more into the international arena. The historically determined parochial character of Italian banking is breaking down. It is important to distinguish between different kinds of international banking. Italian banks are heavily engaged in trade financing both for major Italian companies such as Olivetti, Fiat and Montedison, which are active globally, and for the host of smaller manufacturers of fashion or furniture which are the mainstay of employment and prosperity in many parts of the country. The Luxembourg subsidiaries of Italian banks do quite a lot of trade financing backed by guarantees from the Italian export credit agency. Where Italian banks are very much less active is in the highly complex but huge Euromarkets consisting basically of bonds and syndicated loans. New Eurobond issues, for example, have been running in recent years at an annual rate of \$150 billion (£100 billion). Italian banks have been constrained from moving into the Euromarkets with the same force as their British, French and German

rivals by three main factors. The first is the fragmented structure of the national financial system. By European standards Italy is well provided with banks. But until a few years ago only 15 of them were allowed to operate throughout the country. Most banks were restricted to a particular area, where they built up a strong local presence. So Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, the country's biggest commercial bank, was allowed to make loans anywhere in Italy, while Credito Emiliano, a substantial regional bank, had to obtain permission from the central bank to lend outside the northern and central regions. Second, this inhibition not only stopped banks from growing to the size necessary to compete in the heavily capitalized Euromarkets. It also severely restricted innovation because it restricted competition. Bankers safe in their own patch were disinclined to risk operating in a fast moving Euromarket dominated initially by Anglo-Saxons. A significant portion of Italian banking is also owned by the state. This sector has not been helped by the Italian Treasury, which, in order to finance the country's huge public sector deficit, issued

bonds with very favourable tax concessions. This drained savings and inhibited the growth of deposit bases adequate for international competition. Third, there were other central bank restrictions. The most important was exchange controls. Evading exchange controls is a national hobby in Italy, as periodic scandals on the Swiss border and the sorry episode of the Banco Ambrosiano show. For banks, however, nothing can trump their international style more than tight exchange controls. Ironically, the Euromarket originated essentially as a way of creating an international pool of capital outside national exchange controls. The cause - and some would argue the effect - of exchange controls was the chronically weak lira. Any Italian bank moving into the international arena faced serious currency exposure. Many of these controls are being lifted. The Italian authorities have allowed around 100 banks to operate nationwide, merchant banking, which has been the driving force behind the Euromarkets, is encouraged, and some 40 foreign banks have been allowed to open branches in Italy. Italian bankers admit that the influx of foreigners

has greatly stimulated their own ideas about the business. The problem of exchange controls is the key to understanding the attraction to Italian banks of the Ecu. As an artificial currency consisting of a basket of national currencies, the Ecu offers the maximum exchange rate stability against the tempestuous lira. It also carries political connotations of being good Europeans, which appeals to the Italian authorities. However, much of the Ecu business done by Italian banks is to finance domestic entities. In 1984, for example, the Ecu 450 million (£670 million) "maxiloan" for Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), the giant Italian energy company, included among its lead

Banca Commerciale Italiana and Istituto Bancario Sao Paolo, di Torino, it is also among the top 20 lead managers of loans to Italy. The converse, however, is that 17 of these top 20 are foreign banks. In many other developed countries the lead managers would be predominantly domestic banks - Italian banks simply do not have the financial muscle and expertise always to compete with major American, French, British, German and, increasingly, Japanese rivals. The other side of the coin is borrowing. Italian banks are well-represented among Italian issuers of Eurobonds. Among these banks over the past three years are Banco di Napoli, Banco di Roma, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura, Italian International Bank, Banca Commerciale Italiana, Banco di Santo Spirito (the Vatican Bank), and Credito Italiano. Several Italian banks have in addition raised Euroloans. It will be some years before Italian banks take their place in the Euromarkets, and their success will largely depend on domestic developments, particularly liberalization of exchange controls and other banking restrictions.

Michael Prest

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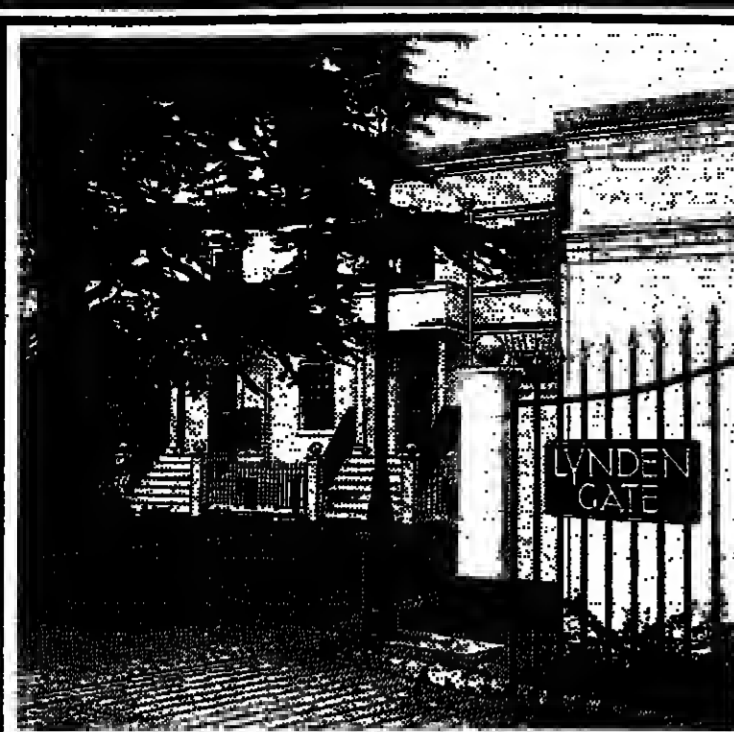
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RACING: THREE POSSIBLE PACEMAKERS INCLUDED AMONG NINE DECLARATIONS FOR ASCOT SHOWDOWN

BLOODSTOCK SALES

Smart Aventino set for his sixth victory in a row

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Joyful Dancer, ood trained by Willie Brooks at Sandown, instead of Paul Cole, will be attempting to repeat his victory of two seasons ago in the Harpers and Queen Handicap over a mile at Sandown Park this evening. He will be ridden again, as he was then, by Richard Quinn who knows him best.

But even after that encouraging run at Brighton earlier this month, when he was caught to the last stride by Pabstina, I still find it impossible to envisage my beating Aventino, who is my entirely justifiable if somewhat unoriginal nap.

One of the most improved horses in training, Aventino has now won five races in succession. While two of those results were achieved over today's course and distance, Aventino has not been more impressive than he was last time out at Newmarket where he beat the useful Finstrippe by four lengths. Since then Finstrippe has paid his conqueror a tribute by winning at Yarmouth only a matter of days before running Than Again so close at Newmarket last Saturday.

Come On The Blues, who has a Whitcup win over today's course and distance, in the bag, could finish only fifth when he took on Joyful Dancer on this occasion two years ago. More recently he acted as Bold Arrangement's pacemaker in the Eclipse Stakes here.

But like the others, he looks to have an impossible task this evening against Aventino, whose trainer, John Sutcliffe, has a less discernible chance but a chance, nevertheless, of also winning the Silks of St James Handicap with The Mechanic.

After winning at Beverley midway through June The Mechanic has been placed at Kempton and Doncaster. On the latter course he was up against that much improved sprinter Felipe Toro who then won his next two races, at Beverley and York.

Old Ferryman seldom runs a bad race but now that his week includes a penalty for winning at Brighton he should find the concession of 29th to The Mechanic too much over a distance that may well be a furlong too short for him these days.

Copper Red and Lucanaga, third and fifth in the Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot, can take the EBF Superlone Maiden Stakes and the Champagne Henriot Royal Wedding Stakes, respectively.

While Santella Sam and Protiline will both relish the distance of the latter race I still feel that they may lack the necessary zip to beat Lucanaga whose courage was a feature at Windsor where he held Ajnax at bay.

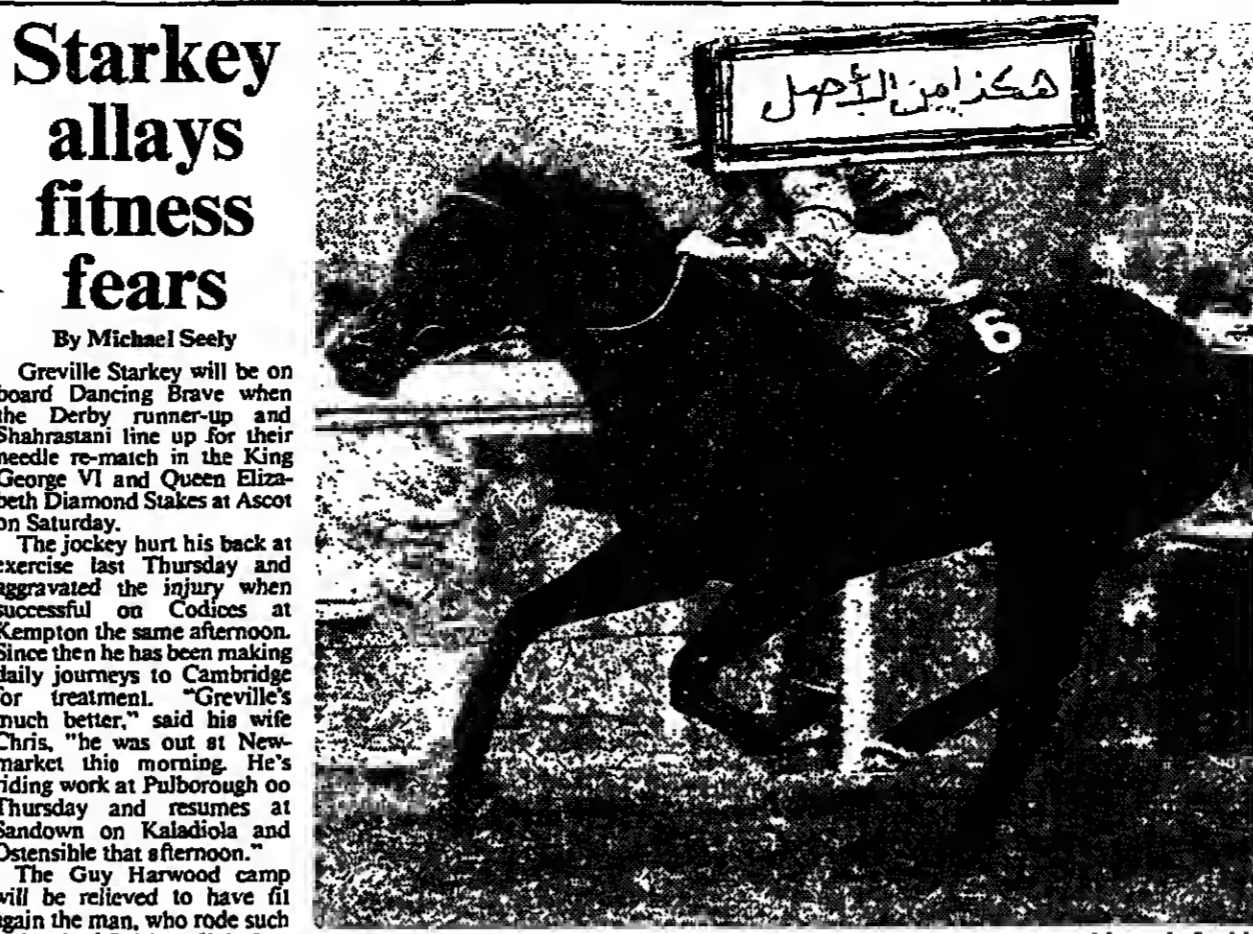
At Yarmouth Steve Cauten can do his prospects of retaining the jockeys' championship some good by landing a double on Queen Midas (2.15) and Eastern House (3.45). Both are trained for their owner-breeder, Louis Freedman, by Henry Cecil.

George Robinson, our Newmarket Correspondent, speaks particularly well of Queen Midas, who is my selection to win the EBF Cotman Maiden Fillies Stakes on her debut.

Cecil and Cauten won the same race 12 months ago with Lucayan Princess, who had been well galloped beforehand, and I am led to believe that Queen Midas, who is one of the first crop of that beautifully bred stallion Gilot of Gold, is expected to follow in her footsteps even though she lacks the racecourse experience of So Stylish and Lisianthus.

Stable companion Eastern House is not a world beater, but she should only have to run as well as she did at Epsom behind Dusty Dollar to win the Applegate Fillies Handicap. Afterwards, Dusty Dollar was runner-up to none other than the Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Sinner Lady to the Child Stakes.

Alec Stewart's decision to bypass Eastern House and run Nordica in the Royal Wedding Stakes instead looks like being justified.



Dihistan, the Hardwicke Stakes winner, is likely to have a crucial pacemaking role for his stable companions, Shahrastani and Shardari, at Ascot on Saturday

Shardari, was expected to have arrived by Concorde at Heathrow last night in order to put the finishing touches to the Aga Khan's redoubtable pair's preparation this morning. "Both horses are very well," said the trainer's wife, Pat, yesterday.

When the trainers showed their hands at yesterday's four-day stage of acceptors the nine declared included all those expected and three possible pacemakers in Dihistan, Bolden and Vouchasse.

Stoutie has not yet confirmed that he is employing Dihistan in this particular role, but it is impossible not to think that the Hardwicke Stakes winner will be in the field on Saturday to set as strong a gallop as possible in order to exploit Shahrastani's proven stamina and to try and blunt Dancing Brave's redoubtable burst of finishing speed.

Dick Hern, the man who used two pacemakers who Bustino was so narrowly defeated by Grundy in that epic battle in 1975, has not yet formulated his final plans. Confirming that Petoski will be in peak form, he said yesterday, "I haven't yet decided whether to run Vouchasse and Bolden or just one of them. There are several fac-



Dihistan, the Hardwicke Stakes winner, is likely to have a crucial pacemaking role for his stable companions, Shahrastani and Shardari, at Ascot on Saturday

tors to be taken into consideration." The best odds available with William Hills and Ladbrokes yesterday were as follows: 5-4 Shahrastani and Dancing Brave, 13-2 Shardari, 14-1 Petoski and 25-1 Triptych.

I have no intention of opposing Shahrastani after his impressive Irish Derby victory, but there is no doubt that the 14-1 offer against Petoski appears to represent sound each-way value.

Before his departure for Kentucky Stoutie was adamant that he did not want the ground to be too firm for Shahrastani. Yesterday Nicholas Beaumont, the clerk of the course, allayed the trainer's fears on this score. "Having had no appreciable rain for several weeks, we had half an inch last night. If we had been racing today, the going would have been perfect."

"I've been watering the course for the past fortnight," he went on, "and this rain will have settled the whole thing down. Showers are forecast for the next few days and if this is correct, we won't be watering again. I've never tried to change the going to suit one particular horse and I don't intend to start now."

Arab influence still powerful during opening exchanges

From David Hedges, Lexington, Kentucky

Keeneland's two-day selected yearling sales opened on Monday against the background of 26 per cent of the horses catalogued at the Fasig-Tipton sales last week being led out unsold and rumours that the Arab influence on the market would be much less this year.

In the event, the first day's selling at Keeneland, while producing average and aggregate figures down from last year, saw Arab interests purchase at least 32 yearlings worth \$24,030,000.

These were the identifiable purchases as appearing on the sales return sheets, but there may have been other yearlings bought through agencies.

The first day produced a turnover of \$55,494,000 for 129 horses with an average of \$430,186, to be compared with last year's total of \$59,040,000 for 130 lots and an average of \$454,153.

There was no headline horse breaking through the \$10m barrier last year, but prices were solid through the middle market.

Highest price was the \$3.6m paid by Darley Stud Management, which operates Sheikh Mohammed's Dalham Hall stud, near Newmarket, for a colt from Windfields Farm by Northern Dancer out of Soaring Ocean. This yearling is a full brother to the champion Canadian filly Northern and to the champion English and Irish two-year-old Storm Bird.

BBA (Ireland) paid \$3.2m for a colt by Northern Dancer's son Nijinsky out of Blush With Pride, who is by Blushing Groom, is from the same female line as El Gran Senor, who won the 2,000 Guineas for Sangster and was narrowly beaten by Secret in the Derby and won the Irish Sweeps Derby.

Sheikh al-Maktoum's Gainsborough Stud Management bought for \$2m a colt by Blushing Groom out of Glorious Son, a mare by Blushing Groom, who won 17 of her 34 races and who was champion mare in both Canada and the United States.

A third al-Maktoum brother, Sheikh Hamdan, who has stud farms in both Kentucky and near Theford in Norfolk, named Shadwell, was also among the upper bracket of buyers. He paid \$1.4m for a colt by Nureyev out of Heavenly Power, whose second dam produced the successful racehorse and sire Majestic Light.

For \$1.2m Gainsborough Stud Management bought a colt by Alleged out of the Lyphard mare Chain Bracelet. This is Chain Bracelet's second foal and her first named Division, is a winner in Ireland this year.

English bloodstock agent George Blachford, who is now associated with Khalid Abdulla, went in \$1.5m for a colt by Mr Prospector out of Durtal, by Lyphard, who was the champion two-year-old filly in England in 1976.

expenditure £20.4m. The lots, which contributed \$58,000 to the Levy Board during the year, has announced pre-tax profits of £3,205,000. This is £29,000 less than last year and the loss of 129 days racing, due to the harsh winter, was blamed.

German target I Want To Be and St Hillarion are British-trained probable for the Grosser Preis von Berlin at Dusseldorf, which is now Theatrical is a likely runner from Ireland. The one they all have to beat is Heinz Jentsch's Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud winner Acatenago. On Saturday, Patrick at Colwyn Bay, Sunday racing, combining illegal betting and reducing betting duty.

The Board's total income for 1985-86 was £21.8m and its expenditure £20.4m. The lots, which contributed \$58,000 to the Levy Board during the year, has announced pre-tax profits of £3,205,000. This is £29,000 less than last year and the loss of 129 days racing, due to the harsh winter, was blamed.

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SANDOWN PARK

Going: firm Draw: high numbers best

- 6.25 E B F SUPERLOANE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,718; 5f) (9 runners)
3 322 COPPER RED (R) Mercurio P Maiden 9-0 ...
2 4032 LAST DANCE (J) Norman R Harrow 9-0 ...
10 000 VICTORY BALLAD (J) O'Connell R Harrow 9-0 ...

Sandown selections

6.25 Copper Red. 6.55 AVENTINO (nap). 7.25 The Mechanic. 7.55 Lucanaga. 8.25 Three Times A Lady. 8.55 Tebitto.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
6.55 Northern Chimes. 7.25 Davill. 7.55 Santella Sam. 8.25 French Florist.

Michael Seely's selection: The Mechanic.
6.55 HARPERS & QUEEN HANDICAP (£3,168; 1m) (5)
1 00-2000 NORTHERN CHIMES (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
10 00-0002 JOYFUL DANCER (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

6.55 HARPERS & QUEEN HANDICAP (£3,168; 1m) (5)
1 00-2000 NORTHERN CHIMES (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
10 00-0002 JOYFUL DANCER (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

7.25 SILKS OF ST JAMES HANDICAP (£3,210; 5f) (12)
1 00-0012 FERRYMAN (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

7.25 SILKS OF ST JAMES HANDICAP (£3,210; 5f) (12)
1 00-0012 FERRYMAN (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

7.45 HAMILTON PRINT HANDICAP (£1,648; 5f) (6)
1 00-0000 LOCH FORTH (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 CARPENTERS BOY (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

7.45 HAMILTON PRINT HANDICAP (£1,648; 5f) (6)
1 00-0000 LOCH FORTH (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
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1 00-0000 LOCH FORTH (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 CARPENTERS BOY (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

AYR RESULTS

Going: firm Draw: high numbers best

- 2.30 (5) 1 LUPSET D McKinnon, 7-4; 2 ...
3.15 (5) 1 LUPSET D McKinnon, 7-4; 2 ...
4.00 (5) 1 LUPSET D McKinnon, 7-4; 2 ...

7.55 CHAMPAGNE HENRIOT ROYAL WEDDING STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,272; 7f) (10)
1 00-0012 FERRYMAN (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

8.25 HOORAY HENRY CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,914; 1m) (5)
1 00-0012 FERRYMAN (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

8.55 OKAY YAH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,323; 1m 3f 100yd) (11)
1 00-0012 FERRYMAN (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

9.25 DARK HERITAGE (J) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
10 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

9.25 DARK HERITAGE (J) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
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10 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

YARMOUTH

Going: firm Draw: high numbers best

- 2.15 E B F COTMAN MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,267; 7f) (8 runners)
1 00-0012 FERRYMAN (C) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...
2 00-0000 LUCANAGA (R) (M) (S) (C) (B) (R) 7-9 ...

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YARMOUTH

Going: firm Draw: high numbers best

- 2.15 E B F COTMAN MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,267; 7f) (8 runners)
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SANDOWN PARK

CRICKET

Tavaré gets cracking to provide Kent with third championship win

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Canterbury: Kent (21pts) beat Lancashire (5) by eight wickets.

A thoroughly good innings by Tavaré took Kent to their third championship victory of the season yesterday and their first at home. He was 90 not out when the match ended in the first over after lunch, having scored the last 76 of them in not much more than an hour.

When Kent won the championship in 1970 they had been last at the start of July. If their recovery this time is unlikely to be quite as spectacular, yesterday's success will have rallied them at a time when, with things going wrong, the season can start to seem very long.

I have always had a soft spot for Kent when traditions, if they are good ones, are properly preserved. Seen from the other side of the St Lawrence ground even the new stand blends well with the old, and of the side that won this match only Alderman was not either born or bred in the county.

As the game had gone for two days, things could very easily have turned against

Kent yesterday, especially when Benson, who had been admirably resident on Monday evening, soon played on a little unluckily, to Allott. But Patterson was nothing like the bowler he had been the night before. He was on his last warning, having been pulled up twice then by umpire Evans for under pitching. Fast bowlers are not accustomed to a strict interpretation of Law 42 even in England, let alone in the West Indies.

When Tavaré was on 14 he survived a sharp chance to Watkinson at second slip off Allott. That, in the event, was Lancashire's last chance. Patterson was spent (he bowled only five overs yesterday, in two spells) and Tavaré began suddenly to play his "other game" - the one he guards so jealously - when he hit Watkinson, bowling off breaks for three successive fours. In not much more than half an hour Tavaré went from 14, which had taken him 95 minutes, to 52. Taylor made him a good partner and the pitch seemed no longer to hold any secrets. No doubt it had been a good loss for Kent to

win, and Lancashire were unlucky with the injuries to O'Shaughnessy and Fairbrother and Patterson, whose heel was said yesterday to be sore.

Had one of the selectors been watching, Tavaré would have got a mention at their next meeting. Having survived Patterson's assault and batted early in Kent's second innings he was rewarded in the end with some fairly easy pickings against Watkinson and the slow left arm of Folley. Like Benson, he would have got an idea what it must have been like to be in West Indies last winter when Patterson was not, as now, a loose fast bowler but the junior, if not the slowest, of four.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 182 (G R Dilley 6 for 57)

Second Innings 165 (G R Dilley 4-55, R M Ellison 4-36)

KENT: First Innings 157 (B P Patterson 4-43, P J W Alderman 4-36)

Second Innings 37 (S G Hinks c Watkinson b Patterson 90, N R Taylor not out 36, Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 7) 17)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-48, 3-120, 4-141-1; 1st 12-11, 13-12, 14-13, 15-14, 16-15, 17-16, 18-17, 19-18, 20-19, 21-20, 22-21, 23-22, 24-23, 25-24, 26-25, 27-26, 28-27, 29-28, 30-29, 31-30, 32-31, 33-32, 34-33, 35-34, 36-35, 37-36, 38-37, 39-38, 40-39, 41-40, 42-41, 43-42, 44-43, 45-44, 46-45, 47-46, 48-47, 49-48, 50-49, 51-50, 52-51, 53-52, 54-53, 55-54, 56-55, 57-56, 58-57, 59-58, 60-59, 61-60, 62-61, 63-62, 64-63, 65-64, 66-65, 67-66, 68-67, 69-68, 70-69, 71-70, 72-71, 73-72, 74-73, 75-74, 76-75, 77-76, 78-77, 79-78, 80-79, 81-80, 82-81, 83-82, 84-83, 85-84, 86-85, 87-86, 88-87, 89-88, 90-89, 91-90, 92-91, 93-92, 94-93, 95-94, 96-95, 97-96, 98-97, 99-98, 100-99, 101-100, 102-101, 103-102, 104-103, 105-104, 106-105, 107-106, 108-107, 109-108, 110-109, 111-110, 112-111, 113-112, 114-113, 115-114, 116-115, 117-116, 118-117, 119-118, 120-119, 121-120, 122-121, 123-122, 124-123, 125-124, 126-125, 127-126, 128-127, 129-128, 130-129, 131-130, 132-131, 133-132, 134-133, 135-134, 136-135, 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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

YACHTING A British lead is lost near the end From a Correspondent

5.45 Ceefax. 5.15 The Royal Wedding. The Breakfast Time team set the scene. Coverage begins with weather at 6.27, 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.57; regional news and travel at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; sports news from Bob Wilson at 6.22 and 7.22. At 6.30, behind the scenes look at the style of the ceremony; 7.08 a profile of Sarah Ferguson; 7.30 a visit to Westminster Abbey; 8.10 Prince Andrew's friends remember his bachelor days; 8.30 a black party on HMS Bazzan; 9.05 a visit to Dumfermline; 9.30 messages from the Palace; 9.45 Westminister Abbey. David Dimbleby describes the scene. 10.45 The Marriage Service. Sarah Scott led at Buckingham Palace with fashion editor Sophie Hicks. 10.50 the bridegroom reads a page from the Bible; 10.55 the Queen and other members of the Royal Family; 11.05 Prince Andrew and Prince Edward and at 11.15 from Clarence House, the bride accompanied by her father. The Marriage Service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. 12.25 The bride and groom leave the Abbey. 1.00 They appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. (Ceefax subtitles from 10.45) 1.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Gooding. Includes news headlines with subtitles 1.55 Regional news and weather. 2.00 The Evening News (1972) starring Susan Hampshire and Nigel Davenport. A sequel to Bom Free. Joy and George Adams join up their jobs in order to take care of her three cubs who are on the wanted list after attacking livestock. Directed by Jack Couffer. 3.30 The Royal Wedding: Honey-moon Departure, introduced by David Dimbleby. At 4.00 there are highlights of this ceremony. 4.22 Regional news. 4.25 Dastardly and Muttley. Cartoon. (r) 4.45 So You Want to Be Top. (r) 5.00 John Gavan on 5.10. (r) 5.35 The Filintones. Cartoon. 5.45 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. 6.30 London Plus. 7.00 The guests tonight include Warren Mitchell and Ernie Wise. Aled Jones sings the Poet Laureate's poem celebrating the Royal Wedding, accompanied by the Finchley Children's Choir. 7.40 Top of the Pops. Introduced by Gary Dayles and Peter Jones. 8.10 Dallas. The Colombian jungle is the venue for this week's dose of dirt dealings, with JR making a secret deal to marry a woman with Matt as kept secret. 9.00 News with John Humphrys and Andrew Harvey. 9.30 The Royal Wedding: A Day to Remember. From outside Buckingham Palace David Dimbleby and Salina Scott present highlights of the royal procession and the marriage service; Glyn Worsley and Paul Burdon discover the more interesting and unusual aspects of the day. 10.30 Film: Meet Me in St Louis (1944) starring Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor and Leon Ames. A musical about a middle-class family in turn-of-the-century St Louis. Directed by Vincent Minnelli. 12.20 Weather.

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6.15 TV-AM Royal Wedding. Presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen, includes news with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. Plus, Tony Blair and Sir Alastair Burnet recall the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales; Godfrey Talbot looks back on his 40 years experience of royal events; interviews with the Ferguson family and with Prince Andrew's commanding officer during the Falklands campaign; Druella Bynoe's recollections on Miss Ferguson's wedding dress; Anne Leuchars reports from Dumfermline wedding day exercises in Trafalgar Square; and in the studio Nigel Dempster and the other Sarah and Andrew Ferguson are getting married today. 9.25 The Royal Wedding. Presented by Andrew Gardner, Sarah Kennedy, Alastair Burnet and Ronald Allison. Maryn Lewis sets the scene at Buckingham Palace; Pamela Armstrong is at Clarence House; Carol Barnes is in Trafalgar Square; and Alastair Stewart surveys the scene from 1,000 feet up in the Goodyear airship. 10.55 The Queen and other members of the Royal Family leave Buckingham Palace; 11.05 Prince Andrew accompanied by Prince Edward leaves Clarence House; 11.15 Sarah Ferguson leaves Clarence House with her father. 11.30 The Wedding Service, performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. 12.25 The bride and groom leave the Abbey. 1.00 They appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. (Ceefax subtitles from 10.45) 1.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Gooding. Includes news headlines with subtitles 1.55 Regional news and weather. 2.00 The Evening News (1972) starring Susan Hampshire and Nigel Davenport. A sequel to Bom Free. Joy and George Adams join up their jobs in order to take care of her three cubs who are on the wanted list after attacking livestock. Directed by Jack Couffer. 3.30 The Royal Wedding: Honey-moon Departure, introduced by David Dimbleby. At 4.00 there are highlights of this ceremony. 4.22 Regional news. 4.25 Dastardly and Muttley. Cartoon. (r) 4.45 So You Want to Be Top. (r) 5.00 John Gavan on 5.10. (r) 5.35 The Filintones. Cartoon. 5.45 News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. 6.30 London Plus. 7.00 The guests tonight include Warren Mitchell and Ernie Wise. Aled Jones sings the Poet Laureate's poem celebrating the Royal Wedding, accompanied by the Finchley Children's Choir. 7.40 Top of the Pops. Introduced by Gary Dayles and Peter Jones. 8.10 Dallas. The Colombian jungle is the venue for this week's dose of dirt dealings, with JR making a secret deal to marry a woman with Matt as kept secret. 9.00 News with John Humphrys and Andrew Harvey. 9.30 The Royal Wedding: A Day to Remember. From outside Buckingham Palace David Dimbleby and Salina Scott present highlights of the royal procession and the marriage service; Glyn Worsley and Paul Burdon discover the more interesting and unusual aspects of the day. 10.30 Film: Meet Me in St Louis (1944) starring Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor and Leon Ames. A musical about a middle-class family in turn-of-the-century St Louis. Directed by Vincent Minnelli. 12.20 Weather.

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Protests decide victory By a Correspondent

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SPORT

Europe comes first for worried Lyle

By Mitchell Platt
Sandy Lyle is contemplating missing the United States PGA championship at Toledo, Ohio, next month in an effort to conserve his energy for the European Tour.

Even so, he has been disturbed by his loss of form, culminating with a last round of 74 in the Open in which he finished joint thirtieth, and he has sought advice on his swing from his father, Alex, the former professional at Hawkstone Park in Shropshire.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Scotland's boxing request refused

Scotland's boxing officials responded angrily yesterday to a decision by their Commonwealth Games Council not to increase the size of their squad for the Games by two.

Javelin woman banned

Diana Royle, the Scottish women's javelin record holder, has been withdrawn from the Scottish team in the Commonwealth Games after failing to obtain the required drugs clearance.

YACHTING

Pajot may get new backer

Yves Pajot's bankrupt Challenge 12 France Syndicate could rise phoenix-fashion from its insolvency problems later this week.

CRICKET

Willey takes the place of Emburey

Barely three months since flying home from Trinidad, wondering whether his cricketing days were over, Peter Willey has been sent for to take the place of the injured John Emburey in the England party for tomorrow's first Test match against New Zealand at Lord's, sponsored by Cornhill.



Navratilova: extending herself and straining every sinew to win a point

Politics takes second place to appeal of Navratilova

A match of very little consequence was elevated to a different plateau of importance by a strange mixture of emotional and political significance here yesterday as Martina Navratilova celebrated her homecoming with a victory.

Multiple Sclerosis is merciless.

It's a disease that can strike anybody, anytime. And there's no cure. Every penny you contribute to the Multiple Sclerosis Society brings the cure that much closer.

If charity begins at home, imagine yours being torn apart.



Form for Multiple Sclerosis Society donation, including fields for name, address, and a checkbox for 'MS Multiple Sclerosis'.

More yachting on page 38

had not sailed on a yacht before joining the group, is recovering in hospital.

Trouble brewing

North Korea have stepped up their demand for a share in the staging of the 1988 Olympic Games and warned of "very serious consequences" if negotiations with South Korea, the designated hosts, fail.

FOOTBALL

Determined labour to save Wolves

Wolverhampton Wanderers, fighting to avoid extinction for the second time in five years, could be taken over in a £3 million move by the town council.

Waiting game

Geoff Boycott's future as a Yorkshire player will not be decided until September, when the club decide on new contracts.

Playing safe

David Pickering, the Wales rugby union captain, has been told to wait until September before he starts training for the new season.

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Hinault still chasing glory

At a Press conference in the Notre Dame des Neiges chapel yesterday Bernard Hinault refused to lie down and admit that he has lost the 73rd Tour de France to his American team-mate, Greg LeMond.

Perfect harmony in breakaway

This season LeMond has raced consistently well, but has yet to achieve the big victory he seeks. He has earned a handful of second places since becoming the world road champion in 1983.

Not a Tour for the climbers

Mercix followed the two Alpine stages this week and told us that he thought Hinault could have improved his chances of winning the Tour if he had ridden differently.

Cal...

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Monday

Music in the round



Portfolio Gold

There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - the weekly prize of £2,000 plus the daily £1,000.

Two escape in balloon crash

The man trapped inside the balloon which crashed into the sea yesterday was rescued by a fishing boat.

The share-out

The million customers of the First National Bank will share £10 million in the bank's profits.

Oxford exams

Oxford Class Lists and degree results are published today. Page 25.

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